

THE TIMES

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KATING 50
14 but ready
compete with
t in the land

**White is
banned
for 16
weeks**

By ALASDAIR RED
JASON WHITE, the Glasgow
Caledonian flanker, has been
banned from rugby for 16
weeks after being found guilty
of stamping on the head of
Brazilian player Sandro
Brazao. An Australian referee
South African stand-off had
during the match at Fife on
Tuesday evening.

The sentence, which will
keep White, 20, out of rugby
until March 2 next year, was
handed down by the panel
commissioner, Allan Hogg, at
a disciplinary hearing at the
Glasgow Sports Centre
yesterday.

White had been cited by a
panel of referees after an incident
of the boot in the 10th minute.
A BBC commentator said
the referee had come down on
the head of the grounded
Brazilian, piercing his hair.

In upholding the charge
and imposing a sentence as
long as the minimum
allowed, Hogg rejected the
argument that the offence
was accidental.

The former international
flanker, who is chairman
of the Glasgow Caledonian
Rugby Club, had broken
through the ban on players
being sent to prison for
offences committed in
the course of their
sport.

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for 16 weeks after being
found guilty of stamping
on the head of Brazilian
player Sandro Brazao.
An Australian referee
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had during the match
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TOMORROW:
Fantasy League



30p
EVERY
WEEKDAY

American B52 bombers were within 30 minutes of hitting Iraq

Clinton backs bid to oust Saddam

By MICHAEL EVANS, JAMES LANDALE AND DAMIAN WHITWORTH

PRESIDENT CLINTON vowed last night to intensify efforts to remove President Saddam Hussein from power, after calling off massive airstrikes on Iraq at the last moment.

Mr Clinton, backed by Tony Blair, warned Saddam that American and British forces would remain on alert to attack if he did not match his promised co-operation with UN arms inspectors with action on the ground. The force in the Gulf is still being strengthened.

The inspectors could be back in Iraq within 24 hours and Mr Blair's spokesman said that it would soon become apparent whether the Iraqi leader was going to keep his promise.

Saddam's climbdown on Saturday — in a letter to Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-General — came almost too late. B52 bombers, armed with cruise missiles, were within 30 minutes of launching their weapons when President Clinton reversed his executive order for airstrikes.

He and Mr Blair had agreed to launch bombing raids at the weekend after eight telephone calls last week.

Last night Mr Clinton made it clear that he wanted unfettered access to all sites — known and suspected — in the UN's efforts to eliminate Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

Washington and London both took tough positions when Iraq at first appeared to set conditions in the letter to Mr Annan. It included a two-page annex setting out Iraq's demands for a "comprehensive review" of its relations with the UN within a very short time (seven days, for example) of the inspectors resuming their work.

It also reiterated Iraq's demand for a "legal interpretation" of the key UN provision that ties UN oil sanctions to Baghdad's co-operation with arms inspections. The conditions, which Iraq later described as only "aspirations", were rejected out of hand.

In his statement from the White House, Mr Clinton warned the Iraqi leader that the America would strike without warning if he broke his new promise of co-operation. "Iraq has backed down but that is not enough. Now Iraq must live up to its obligations.

Until we see complete compliance we will remain vigilant and keep up the pressure. We will be ready to act."

He then issued his strongest commitment yet to a long-term solution to the region's problems. Saddam remained an "impediment" to the well-being of his people and while the operation to contain the Iraqi leader would continue "over the long term, the best way to address that threat is through a government in Baghdad, a new government, that is committed to represent and respect its people, not repress them; that is committed to peace in the region."

He added: "Over the past year we have deepened our engagement with the forces for change in Iraq, reconciling the two largest Kurdish opposition groups, beginning broadcasts of a Radio Free Iraq throughout the country.

"We will intensify that effort, working with Congress to implement the Iraq Liberation Act which was recently passed, strengthening our political support to make the opposition a more effective voice for the aspirations of the Iraqi people."

Mr Blair also insisted that Iraq had to act immediately on its promise to allow in the UN inspectors and said the crisis would not be over until "absolute and unconditional compliance" was guaranteed and deliveries of weapons were stopped.

Britain remained ready, willing and able to strike at a moment's notice. He had given the authority for British forces to attack Iraq on Saturday and would not hesitate to do so again.

"There will be no further warning whatsoever. This thing is not over yet, until we have every single bit of this bolted down and in place. We remain ready, willing and able to strike at any point in time."

Mr Blair's official spokesman said that the UN inspectors would be going in "within days rather than weeks" to examine previously barred sites. "The slightest obstruction of that will leave [Iraq] open to immediate attack."

erly opposed by the TUC, which has argued against any shift in the settlement with Mrs Beckett. But the Government says it was always envisaged that there would be consultations on the details and that it is responding to justifiable fears among employers.

Tony Blair has played a big behind-the-scenes role in the discussions. The Prime Minister has been anxious to ensure the Government's good relations with industry are not jeopardised by the legislation, which will be included in the Queen's Speech opening the new session of parliament next week.

Mr Mandelson makes his decision over the next few days. He is also looking again at proposals to abolish the ceiling on compensation for unfair dismissal. Employers have argued that scrapping an upper limit — now about £12,000 — would lay them open to huge claims. Mr Mandelson is understood to be considering a maximum of up to £50,000.

Employers would like the figure to be lower but the decision to have a ceiling is another move towards them. Even Mr Blair's union movement allies, such as Ken Jackson of the engineering union, have given a warning against watering down the earlier plans.

Alarmed by the deepening loss of public confidence in the economy, Mr Blair will break with tradition in his Guildhall speech tonight. The Prime Minister, who normally uses the occasion to set out foreign policy, will claim the United Kingdom is well placed to weather the downturn



Iraqis under a giant portrait of Saddam mark Baghdad Day, the anniversary of the founding of the city

Unions face tougher task to qualify for recognition

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

THE Government is expected to amend its forthcoming employment legislation by making it tougher for unions to achieve automatic recognition within companies.

In response to widespread industry concern, Peter Mandelson, Trade Secretary, is poised to introduce safeguards to prevent unions organising snap recruitment campaigns to win immediate recognition.

Under the Government's proposals as they stand, unions gain automatic recognition without having a ballot if they can show that 50 per cent of the workers in a company are members. But, in a move that will anger the movement, the Government is expected to insist that union members should also be asked whether they wish the union to represent them in wage negotiations.

To gain recognition the union would have to show that 50 per cent of the employees wanted it to represent them in collective bargaining discussions with management.

In a further tightening of the proposals, which some employers organisations saw as a union victory when they were agreed by Margaret Beckett, Mr Mandelson's predecessor, workers will have to show they have a commitment to union membership before being included as part of the 50 per cent. Mr Mandelson is expected to rule that they should be members for at least three months to be counted.

The move is intended to stop unions moving into companies and trying to gain overnight recognition by rapidly signing up workers. The changes are certain to be bitterly opposed by the TUC, which has argued against any shift in the settlement with Mrs Beckett. But the Government says it was always envisaged that there would be consultations on the details and that it is responding to justifiable fears among employers.

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Farmers to get £150m urgent aid

By VALERIE ELLIOTT AND MICHAEL HORNSBY

GORDON BROWN has agreed to dip into the Treasury reserve to fund a rescue package of up to £150 million to help farmers to survive the worst crisis in agriculture since the 1930s.

Details are expected to be announced by Nick Brown, the Agriculture Minister, today, but the final sum was still under negotiation last night.

The National Farmers' Union said that the aid would be welcome, but would bring temporary relief rather than a lasting cure. "It will be like putting a pressure pad on a torn artery," Ian Gardiner, the policy director, said. "It will temporarily stop the haemorrhage, but further surgery will be necessary."

The package is expected to include some £48 million of EU aid for beef producers as well as assistance for hill farmers.

Executors search world for heirs to £7m fortune

By SUSIE STEINER

IN LIFE, Helen Lowe was alone. Having lost her love in the First World War, the Scottish spinster turned her attentions to business and amassed £7 million in shares and property.

In death, however, Miss Lowe is developing a surprising extended family. A worldwide search has been launched to find heirs to her estate after the pensioner died without making a will.

Lowe, who has since been found in Canada, Australia and South Africa and a genealogist is helping Miss Lowe's executors. The task is "taking a lot of time and effort", said Andrew Lowe, the deceased's second cousin. There are 20,936 adults named Lowe living in Britain alone.

"We have unearthed a number of relatives already and no doubt there are more to come," Mr Lowe said. "There could be dozens and we have to establish this before we can make any move." Only legitimate heirs need apply — those staking a claim will have to prove their lineage in a Sheriff Court with birth, death and marriage certificates.

Miss Lowe, who died a year ago aged 99, was described as a "canny" businesswoman who became one of Scotland's first women chartered accountants and started her own firm in 1928. A leading figure in Ed-



Helen Lowe: died aged 99 without leaving a will

inburgh's business community, Miss Lowe was appointed MBE in 1964 in recognition of her work with elderly people.

"She was as bright as a button and continued to work right up until she died. She wasn't frugal so much as canny," said Mr Lowe. By the time she died — weeks before her 100th birthday — Miss Lowe owned a portfolio of stocks and shares and properties in the Edinburgh area.

"We don't know how many beneficiaries there will be," said Mr Lowe. "There is a genealogist piecing together the family tree and finding people who we have never heard of. We think it will be a long time before this is disentangled."

Valerie Gage, 73, who lived next door to Miss Lowe for more than 30 years, said there was a message in Miss Lowe's failure to make a will: "I think she's making a good point of the rest of us that when it comes down to the basic things in life, material possessions don't mean everything."

Jakarta fears crackdown

Jakarta buried its dead as battle lines between the Indonesian Government and reformers hardened.

A crackdown similar to the one in Tiananmen Square against pro-democracy students in Beijing seemed increasingly likely. Another student died, taking the death toll to 11. Page 13

Delay for City watchdog

MPs are to be urged to delay the legislation that will transfer regulatory powers to the Financial Services Authority for another year. There are fears that the new watchdog will breach the European Convention on Human Rights in a case due to be heard at Strasbourg. Page 25

Bypass cheered

Sixty-two years and two public inquiries after the idea of a Newbury bypass was mooted, it will open to congratulations from locals and threats from protesters. Page 7

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Prince seeks new challenge for charities in drug crusade

By ALEXANDRA FREAN
SOCIAL AFFAIRS
CORRESPONDENT

The Prince of Wales is looking for controversial new challenges for his charities to tackle, now that many of his once-unorthodox ideas have become part of official policy and mainstream thinking. After years of fighting social exclusion through the work of his charities, the Prince's Trust and Business In The Community, the Prince is now calling on business leaders and central and local government to do more to tackle the problem of drugs misuse among

young people. Sources closest to the Prince said that the move was a natural extension of his charitable work. "He is looking for new frontiers and drugs is one of them. So many of the things that he has promoted in the past to his charities are now being done by the government. He thinks he should now move on and find new challenges. The Trust and BTIC continue to innovate. That is their whole point," a source said.

Friends say that the Prince feels vindicated now that many of the ideas he has promoted for years, but which have been dismissed in the past as "batty" or unorthodox, are

central to government policy. These include promoting the notion of a stakeholder society by encouraging companies to devote a percentage of pre-tax profits towards community investment, promoting employment opportunities for young people by providing them with financial and moral support and forging partnerships between the public, private and voluntary sectors.

They said that the Prince, who is patron of the drugs rehabilitation charity Phoenix House, was acutely aware that all drugs charities had to struggle to get recognition and funding for their work and he now wants to do something about

it. One way he hopes to achieve this is through a new initiative launched by his charity Business in the Community, called Drugs - The Business Agenda, which is seeking to persuade companies to provide financial and practical help to community-led anti-drugs projects in their areas.

The programme, which is backed by the drugs czar Keith Hellawell, will be launched in ten regional centres throughout the country and will also seek to promote the message that employers should help find treatment for their workers if they develop a drugs problem, rather than sack them. Companies should consider providing

drugs counselling in much the same way as many firms already offer alcohol counselling to employees with a drink problem. They should also offer support to employees having to cope with a child or other family member who is addicted to illegal drugs.

Much of this runs counter to the growing tendency for employers to conduct random drugs tests of employees, with the aim of rooting out any bad apples. The Prince is also very keen to improve communication between the myriad of agencies in the public and voluntary sector which current-

ly fund and provide drugs rehabilitation treatment. At a private meeting last week in Sheffield with representatives of the Department of Health, local authorities and the charitable sector he called for more "joined up thinking" between anti-drugs organisations.

He also stressed the importance of helping to support young people who leave care at the age of 16 with no family to go back to so that they did not start misusing drugs. The Prince also wants to mobilise an army of mentors, either retired people with time on their hands or company executives who have been given time off, to help young people

with drugs problems. On a visit to a drugs rehabilitation home run by Phoenix House last week, the Prince said that the wisdom of the older generation could be harnessed to provide support. Bill Pudiczombe, chief executive of Phoenix House, said that the involvement of the Prince of Wales with the charity was crucial. "So many of the people we work with feel devalued when they come here. The fact that someone of the Prince's standing is interested in what happens to them gives them tremendous encouragement."

Night for jewels, page 6

Ashdown faces fresh criticism as party meets

By OUR POLITICAL STAFF

PADDY ASHDOWN will today face fresh criticism of his plans to extend the Liberal Democrats' cooperation with Labour when senior party officers meet to discuss them.

Although the Liberal Democrat leader last week won the support of most of his MPs, many activists will express their unhappiness that they were not consulted when the national Executive meets today. Party sources expressed confidence that the executive would back the plans but acknowledged that the vote is likely to be close. Mr Ashdown yesterday challenged his party to welcome the proposal to extend the number of issues considered by the joint Cabinet committee of ministers and Liberal Democrat MPs and peers. The agenda could be expanded from joint action on constitutional issues to include Europe, education, health and welfare reform.

Speaking on BBC Radio 4's *The World This Weekend*, Mr Ashdown told his critics that they must recognise that such continental-style cooperation was inevitable under proportional representation.

This is likely to be particularly true in Scotland where Labour is expected to need an alliance with the Liberal Democrats to hold the balance of power in the Edinburgh parliament.

However, Simon Hughes, the party's health spokesman, speaking on *Crosstalk* on LWT, warned Mr Ashdown of the concerns within the party and urged the leader to take his grassroots with him, with more consultation before decisions were taken.

Tories to step up rebellion on Lords

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR is facing legislative gridlock in the House of Lords this autumn as Tory peers step up their opposition to Labour's planned reforms of the second chamber.

Senior Tories said yesterday that unless the Prime Minister scrapped his plan to expel hereditary peers without saying what would take their place, they would mount an all-out assault on the Government's new legislative programme.

The move comes as the Government struggles to resolve the current confrontation between the Lords and the Commons over the new electoral system for next summer's European elections.

MPs will today back the latest government amendment aimed at ending the crisis but Tory chiefs are insisting the Lords will reject the compromise for a fourth time when the matter returns to the Upper House tomorrow.

Peers are insisting that voters must have the right to back individual candidates. But the Government says that the parties should select the candidates, with voters simply determining how many seats each party gets.

The Tories have been buoyed by their success in the issue and are keen to continue similar attacks on the Government's new package of propos-

als to be unveiled next week in the Queen's Speech.

Tory officials made clear that the party will abide by the so-called Salisbury Convention, under which the Lords agrees not to throw out manifesto commitments of a newly elected Government. They also added that they would not oppose legislation just for the sake of opposition.

But they said that if the Government did not scrap its two-stage approach to Lords reform, their peers would not be as restrained as they are now.

The Government is committed to ending the right of hereditary peers to sit and vote but have not spelt out any further reforms of the Lords. They will publish a White Paper later next month which will set up a royal commission to consider the ultimate shape of a reformed second chamber. The Tories want wholesale public and cross-party consultation before any changes are made.

The new Tory policy is being characterised as a "zero tolerance" approach to what they see as bad legislation. Instead of letting most legislation go through, they will amend and reject far more measures. This would mean that Bills would take far longer to go through the Lords and throw the Government's parliamentary timetable into disarray. Liam Fox,



Tony Blair walking into 10 Downing Street yesterday

the Tory constitutional spokesman, said yesterday: "We will not oppose just for the sake of it. But we will oppose what we see as bad legislation and we will not be as willing to constructively amend, or to be restrained, or to turn a blind eye. We will scrutinise with vigour legislation we think is against the country's interests."

He insisted that the Government would "retard their own programme" by being unre-

asonable and refusing a Tory offer of co-operative reform.

Viscount Cranborne, the Tory leader in the Lords, confirmed that the Tories recognised that the Commons would win in any confrontation with the Lords. But he said on BBC Television's *On the Record*: "Meanwhile, it is perfectly right and sensible that the House of Lords should exercise the job that it is there to do."

Maude tells of his gay brother's Aids death

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

FRANCIS MAUDE spoke publicly for the first time yesterday about his homosexual brother's death from an Aids-related illness and called for an end to the "outing" of gay MPs.

The Shadow Chancellor said that his family had been devastated when his brother, Charles, died in 1993, aged 42, and that it had made him a more tolerant person and a politician. He said that the idea of MPs having to declare their sexuality was disgusting.

"People should have parts of their lives which are private," he said.

Charles Maude, a graphic and stage designer, discovered he was HIV-positive in 1986, and became a passionate supporter of the London Light House, the charity helping Aids sufferers find advice and treatment. In his last two years, Charles Maude moved in with his brother and his wife, Christina.

Speaking on GMTV's *Sunday* programme, Mr Maude said: "I don't think it had a huge effect on my political thinking. I've always been, I hope, a tolerant fellow. The effect it has on your family is that it draws you more closely together. The only conclusion you can draw in political terms is that it makes you realise that your family is the thing that matters most."

In an interview with *The Sunday Times*, Mr Maude said that, although his parents had found it difficult to accept that his brother was gay, "it always seemed to me a bit pointless to disapprove of homosexuality. It's like disapproving of rain."

Hague seeks to align party with Church

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

WILLIAM HAGUE will today launch a campaign to end the hostility of recent years between the Tory party and the Church by seeking to reconnect his party's thinking with Christian traditions.

The party leader will announce a taskforce of Conservatives and Christians of all political persuasions to begin a new consultation drive with churches across the country.

In a speech to the Conservative Christian Fellowship, he will make clear that he is not claiming that the Tories have a "monopoly on scripture". But he will emphasise the moral and ethical underpinnings of Tory policy, which he believes should be "consistent" with the Christian faith.

In particular, he will make clear the similarities between Christian and Conservative thinking such as support for the family and a belief in limited government, freedom and individual responsibility. He will also urge Christians to take part in politics.

Tory officials denied that Mr Hague was seeking to suggest that all Tories must be Christians, and vice-versa. But many MPs will see the move as an attempt to combat Tony Blair's attempts to woo voters by highlighting his brand of Christian socialism.

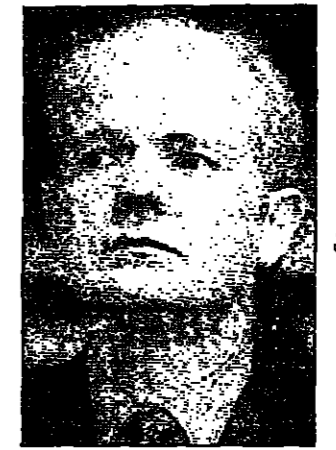
The taskforce, known as the Conservative and Churches Standing Committee, will be chaired by Gary Streeter, a Tory frontbencher and committed Christian. It will link with the party's "Listening to Britain" campaign by talking to clergy and lay members of all denominations. The group will then question members of

the Shadow Cabinet to ensure that Tory policy is meeting the needs of Britain's Christians.

"The Conservative Party must be the party of the whole nation," Mr Hague will say. "We are, as Disraeli said, a national party or we are nothing."

Yesterday Mr Hague emphasised his message in an interview with LWT's *Sunday Night* programme. "It is important that the Conservative Party reconnects with the churches and learns from the churches," he said.

Asked whether he regarded himself a Christian, Mr Hague said: "Yes, I do. I have been brought up in a Christian family but that doesn't necessarily mean that I have been to church every week. Like many in the country, I am a Christian who doesn't go to church every week. But I certainly regard myself as a Christian and my politics are founded on Christian ethics and beliefs."



Hague sees himself as a Christian

Government to ban age limits at work

By ALEXANDRA FREAN
SOCIAL AFFAIRS
CORRESPONDENT

NEW measures to fight ageism at work are to be announced by the Government today, including a ban on age limits and euphemisms such as "newly qualified" or "recent graduates" in recruitment advertisements.

Andrew Smith, the Employment Minister, will call on employers to abandon their stereotypical views and take a more "holistic" approach to the age profile of their workforce.

"Everybody knows that when recruiters ask for 'recent graduates' or 'newly qualified' people, what they really mean is that they only want young people. We want to change that. The idea that younger workers are better or that older workers are more reliable

will no longer be accepted," a government source said.

"What works best in many workplaces is a mix of ages."

He added that the proposals, to be outlined in a consultation document entitled *Age Diversity*, have been produced in response to government concern that age discrimination against older workers is confining many older people with valuable skills and experience

to live out the rest of their days on state benefits.

Today's move is part of the Government's drive to reduce welfare dependency through its New Deal for employment, which has already focused on key target groups, including young people aged 18-25, lone parents and the disabled.

Of the 9.3 million people aged between 50 and 64 in the United Kingdom today, 3.7

million are not in work. Most of these - 3.4 million - are classified as economically inactive. In 1976 only 11 per cent of men aged 50 to 64 were "inactive"; the figure today is 27 per cent.

Ministers believe that specific action on age discrimination is required to reverse this trend. With an ageing population - 34 per cent of the workforce will be 45 or over by 2000

- ministers are also keen to help employers adapt to the inevitable consequence of population change by encouraging them to appreciate the value of older employees.

While the consultation document will recommend the creation of a voluntary code of practice for employers, Government sources emphasised that Mr Smith had not ruled out the possibility of legislation on age discrimination, but added that he was keen to see first how successful a voluntary code of practice can be.

He is not encouraged by the experience of other countries which have legislated on the matter. In New Zealand, the existence of a statutory code proved so problematic and government departments which wanted to hire new staff had eventually to be exempted from it.

Earth braced for meteors

ONE of the most ferocious meteor storms for decades could wreak havoc tomorrow among satellite television and communication systems.

Astronomers are looking forward to a dazzling display as the atmosphere is bombarded by a spectacular shower of tiny dust fragments. The space shuttle will be grounded, the Hubble Space Telescope turned away from possible impacts, and satellite operators will cross their fingers as the Earth passes through the wake of the comet Tempel-Tuttle.

It has produced an annual shower of meteors, the Leonids, since the 10th century. They become a storm every 33 years or so, when the Earth crosses the comet's path.

Leading article, page 23

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Government to ban age limits at work

ANDY HALE was 48 years old when he lost his job as a senior marketing manager with NatWest two years ago after a company reorganisation. His pay and benefits package was worth around £60,000. He now has a temporary job selling Christmas trees to garden centres for the equivalent of around £6,500 a year. Mr Hale, from Harrogate, has applied for 200 jobs and attended 20 interviews, and believes that age discrimination is a major reason why he has still not found a permanent job. "You can't prove it because people are too clever to say bluntly that you are too old. A classic remark that I have heard several times in interviews is 'We have a young team here, how well do you think you would fit in?', he said. "I recently got invited to an interview for a job that was paying £60,000. I did not get it but it made me realise that there are people who think I have something to offer."

Earth braced for meteors

Leading article, page 23

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Surgeons tell of race to save Siamese twins

By ADRIAN LEE

THE two surgeons who separated Siamese twins at the weekend told yesterday how they raced against time to save the lives of the girls, who had been flown, close to death, to Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children in London.

It was feared that the babies, who were born sharing a liver on Thursday, would not survive Friday night without the emergency operation. The twins are still seriously ill and, despite the success of the surgery, it will be several weeks before they are out of danger. Both face further surgery on their intestines, which were also shared.

They owe their lives to Edward Kiely and Lewis Spitz, veterans of nine previous Siamese operations, and their team. The surgeons said they had to operate quickly but meticulously as the twins were deteriorating rapidly.

Ideally, the procedure to separate the girls would have been delayed until they were

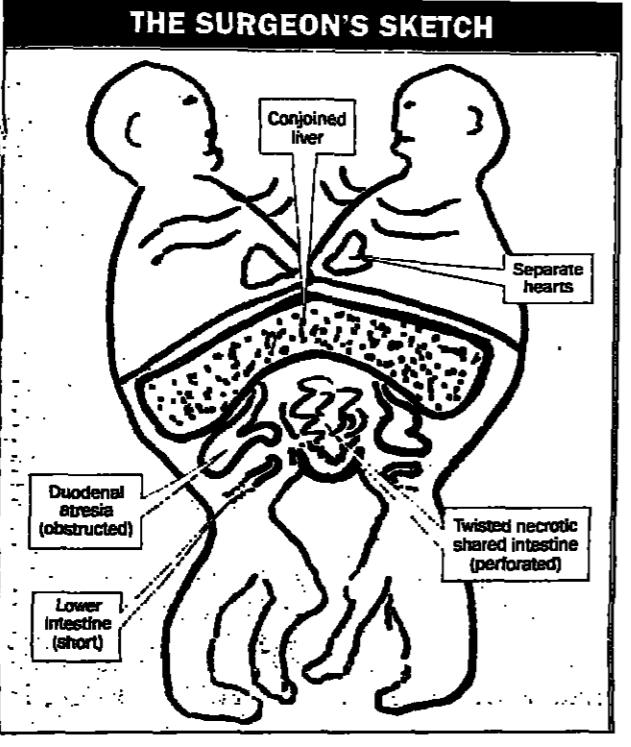


Dr Kiely, praised RAF and ambulance service in helping to save twins

three months old, but they were so ill that an immediate operation was their only chance. "We did not have much time. They may not have lasted the night," Professor Spitz said.

The operation took three hours. In earlier cases surgery has lasted up to 18 hours. Because they were so young, the liver was particularly vulnerable, making the complex operation even more difficult.

Despite the pressure of time, Professor Spitz said that the atmosphere in the operating theatre was calm. The surgeons discovered an infection, caused by a perforation of the shared intestine. During surgery it was possible to repair the damage to the intestine of the stronger twin, but the second girl was too ill and will undergo the procedure later.



A hospital spokeswoman said that the girls were in a poorly but stable condition yesterday, having spent a settled night. It is believed that their parents, from the Bristol area, have arrived in London. They do not want to be identified.

During surgery, each surgeon took responsibility for one twin. At one stage, Mr Kiely was forced to massage the heart of the weaker twin, who came close to death. He sat with her throughout the night, administering tiny quantities of drugs to keep her alive.

Earlier, as leader of the surgical team, he had briefed the parents of the girls and explained how their daughters would die without immediate surgery. "I can't imagine what the parents are going through," he said.

The surgeons praised the four anaesthetists involved and said that the role of the RAF and the London Ambulance Service was also crucial. A retrieval team rushed to Bristol by road to assess the twins, who were then flown by helicopter to London.



Charlotte Church, 12, celebrating the double chart success of her album with her pop idol George Michael at a charity ball in London yesterday

By SUSIE STEINER

Schoolgirl's angelic voice transports her to No 1

A 12-YEAR-OLD girl made music history yesterday by becoming the youngest female singer to reach the top 40 in both the classical and pop charts.

Charlotte Church's collection of classical arias, *Voice of an Angel*, shot to No 1 in the classical chart and went into the pop music chart at No 24. The record, which includes light classical songs such as *Ave Maria*, *Amazing Grace* and *Jerusalem*, was recorded in Charlotte's school holidays

and went on sale last Monday. It has sold more than 20,000 copies since and replaced *Back to Titanic* as classical No 1.

Her manager, Jonathan Shalit, said: "It's unheard of for someone singing this sort of music to sell records so quickly. The record shops were taken by surprise. A lot of them wouldn't stock it because they thought it wouldn't sell but there were massive requests from the public."

Charlotte lives in Cardiff with her mother, who works for the local authority, and her father, who fits office security devices. She attends Howell's School in Llandaff.

She learnt about her success as she recovered from meeting one of her pop idols, George Michael, at a charity ball in London, at which they both sang in aid of a children's charity. "He was really nice," she said. "When I asked him for his autograph he wrote, 'What a voice!!! Love and Good Luck, George.'" Charlotte's soprano voice was discovered 15 months ago when she performed on a television talent show. Soon afterwards she sang, unaccompanied, during an interview with the president of Sony Records, Paul Burger. Mr Shalit said: "Before she had finished he was dialling the president of Sony Classical in New York." She signed for the label in February.

Funeral chief defends US way of death

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE head of an American multinational funeral service firm has written a letter to every member of the General Synod of the Church of England defending his company's approach to death.

In a five-page letter to all 53 bishops, 259 clergy and 258 laity on the synod, Peter Hindley admits that Service Corporation International, which has acquired 14 per cent of Britain's funeral market, has made mistakes.

But he insists that 99 per cent of his company's clients would use the service again or recommend it to others. He denies strongly that commercial pressures from some funeral directors are discouraging church funerals and

undermining the traditional link between the parish priest and the bereaved. "SCI cannot, of course, be blamed for any sense of distance families may feel from their parish church," he says. "SCI is concerned, wherever possible, to build bridges between families and parish clergy."

On Wednesday, synod members meeting in Church House, Westminster, will debate a motion from the Southwark diocese that regrets "the cultural trends and commercial pressures from some funeral directors which discourage funerals in parish churches and which conceal or deny the pastoral and spiritual truths of death and dying." The diocese urges people to make preparations for their own death in cooperation with their local clergy.

£100,000 awaits creative Britons

By SUSIE STEINER

NICHOLAS KENT, the director of the Tricycle Theatre in North London, has been short-listed for a Creative Britain award worth £100,000. He has sustained the theatre through the loss of its Arts Council grant in 1984 and a fire in 1987 to the opening of a £3 million arts centre last week.

Twenty candidates, deemed to be key forces in Britain's cultural life, have been short-listed for funding from the Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts. Six winners will be announced before Christmas, will receive £20,000 each. An overall winner, to be announced in February, will receive another £80,000.

'Smart' houses to watch the elderly

By HELEN RUMBELLOW

ELDERLY people can now live in "intelligent" houses that watch their daily routine and call relatives if there is an unusual break in it.

The BT computer surveillance scheme, which is co-sponsored by the Anchor Trust, began in 30 homes last month, and may become available to the public next year.

Boy with false leg wins a victory over the FA

By PETER FOSTER



A BOY aged 12 who was picked for his local football team despite having a false leg has won a battle to be allowed to play by the Football Association.

Sam Burrows is passionate about the game and, despite his disability, practises incessantly in his garden at home and with other children at his school. Last month he was chosen to play on the wing for Lutterworth Town Youth AFC, but his elation quickly turned to disappointment when he discovered that he had fallen foul of an FA regulation that says players must not wear anything that could injure themselves or others - a rule more usually applied to earrings and worn-down boot studs.

But after three months of lobbying by his father and several doctor's letters, Sam has become the first disabled footballer to play in a competition officially recognised by the FA. With the paperwork completed, he made his debut last week for Lutterworth Under-13s, playing a full 90 minutes against another local boys' side. Despite losing 6-1 the game was a triumph, according to his father.

DPP hunts local prosecutors with a mission for justice



Calvert-Smith: focus on women and minorities

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

AN OVERHAUL of the Crown Prosecution Service gets under way this week with the launch of a massive recruitment drive for a new national network of 42 mini-DPPs to restore morale and confidence in the service. In the biggest top-level selection exercise ever carried out by a Whitehall department, women and ethnic minority lawyers will be a particular target for the key posts which are advertised in *The Times* tomorrow. In a novel move, the potential candidates will have to sit an examination to test their knowledge of the criminal law

to ensure they are of the right calibre. The posts, on a salary range of £35,000 to £90,000, are the crucial appointments in the new organization of the CPS which comes into being in April. Somewhat like American-style district attorneys - although not elected and not political - the new mini-DPPs will be all-powerful in their new local areas which are in line with existing police force areas. They will have responsibility for prosecution decisions and assume a high public profile.

The task of selecting the right people falls to the new DPP, David Calvert-Smith, QC, 53, a former criminal law silk who was headhunted for the

job which has become known as a poisoned chalice. In his first interview since taking up the £116,000 a year post on November 1, he said: "We require people with a deep knowledge of the criminal law and with the leadership qualities necessary not just to run a legal department but to hold their own with the other key players in the criminal justice system - the chief constables, chief probation officers and so on."

They would have to be extremely good criminal lawyers, he added, and that was why they would have to sit an examination, so he could satisfy himself that they came up to scratch. Above all, he wants women

and ethnic minority candidates to apply: "I certainly don't want 42 white, middle class, male lawyers like me. If we don't have a good spread by sex and racial origin, then we won't represent the people we serve."

The posts - salaries will average pounds £50-£60,000 but go up to £90,000 for key areas such as London - are in line with recommendations of the recent report on the service by Sir Iain Glidewell, a former Court of Appeal judge.

The report coincided with the early retirement of the last DPP, Dame Barbara Mills, QC, who said the overhaul should be overseen by her successor. But critics felt she had become

too identified with the over-centralised, bureaucratic demoralised service to be able to remain to the end of her contract in April next year.

Mr Calvert-Smith, who was headhunted for the post, said he did not see it as a poisoned chalice: "I am not in the business of voluntarily committing suicide, like Socrates. I see it as a great opportunity. There is an enormous groundswell of optimism and enthusiasm both in the service and outside it." He also denied he had had his arm-twisted: he was persuaded, he said, by assurances from the Attorney General that the thrust of the Glidewell report would be implemented.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Woman driver hit by brick

A woman was badly injured in the face when a brick thrown from a motorway bridge smashed through the windscreen of her car. Kathy Hall, 29, had extensive surgery to rebuild her jaw after the incident on the M602 motorway near Eccles, Greater Manchester. She was believed to be returning to her home in Liverpool after going to the theatre. Her jaw was smashed, she had serious injuries to the left side of her face and lost several teeth. Ms Hall was taken to Manchester Royal Infirmary.

Aspinall dying

John Aspinall, 72, the millionaire and animal park owner, is seriously ill in hospital suffering from cancer. Mr Aspinall, who owned casinos with Sir James Goldsmith, has admitted, in a television interview to be screened this week, that he is "close to death".

Euthanasia fear

Family doctors in Britain have helped up to 27,000 patients to die, a study has claimed. The British Medical Association will now draw up a set of rules on when doctors can withdraw treatment, after finding widespread confusion among its members.

Painkiller abuse

Pharmacists have given warning of a "potentially huge abuse problem" with drug addicts misusing the popular painkiller Nurofen Plus. The warning comes after it was discovered that the drug, made of ibuprofen and codeine, could be split into its different parts.

999 time wasters

Up to 80 per cent of 999 calls to the police are not real emergencies and the misuse of the service is costing millions of pounds each year, says a report by the ITV programme *World in Action*. They include a woman reporting that a cat had crept into her house.

Release hope

An Italian judge has ruled that a British woman sentenced to 11 years' jail for drug trafficking had been wrongly convicted. However, Ruth Sandberg, 36, of Colchester, Essex, will be kept in prison near Milan until it is decided whether she must face a retrial.

Internet a threat to family life, says rabbi

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Chief Rabbi, Dr Jonathan Sacks, launched an attack last night on the Internet, computer games and personal stereos as tools that contributed to the destruction of family life.

Such modern technological devices were things enjoyed in isolation, he said. "They starve our children of the oxygen of togetherness". Dr Sacks, launching the first Orthodox Jewish "parenting seminar" in Ravenswood, North London, organised by the Agency for Jewish Education, pleaded for a return to religious ritual to strengthen the family.

He said: "Eating the sabbath meal together, celebrating the festivals at home, reading the Bible to our children - these are among the most powerful bonds between the generations. Present-day culture has no equivalent. The Walkman, computer games and the Internet we enjoy alone."

Dr Sacks, who is helping lead a revival in Orthodox faith and practice within the 300,000-strong Anglo-Jewish community, said: "Families can only flourish on the basis of dedicated time, shared celebration and conversation. "Religious ritual alone

makes these a matter of duty. It protects what otherwise is being rapidly eroded, sacred times which are the breath of family life."

Dr Sacks, echoing many of the sentiments voiced also by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, called on voluntary bodies and religious groups to lead the way in exalting parenthood as the highest form of moral responsibility.

"We must teach our children, restore forgotten values and rescue parenthood from the bonfire of responsibilities," he said, warning that the high divorce and illegitimacy rates showed that society had gone too far in honouring freedom of adults at the expense of the security of children.

"A society is judged by the way it cares for its most vulnerable members, of whom children, especially in their early years, are among the most exposed. The mounting evidence is making it clearer by the year that we are in the process of creating two nations: those who have the support of a stable, two-parent family, and those who don't. With few exceptions, the first will have an advantage in almost every sphere of life."



Ulrika Jonsson pressing the button to launch ONdigital at Crystal Palace yesterday

First digital TV service walks on air

By RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR

THE world's first digital terrestrial television service made a low-key launch yesterday with no party and only a few thousand viewers.

However, most of the planned 30 channels, which can be received on conventional television aerials with a digital set-top box, came on during the day on schedule. To provide some visual evidence to mark the launch of ONdigital, the main commercial service, Ulrika Jonsson switched on neon lights used to pick out the outline of the Crystal Palace transmitter in London.

"It's going better than we thought. We are on air and it works and people clearly want it," Stephen Grabiner, chief executive of ONdigital, the main commercial digital terrestrial service said yesterday. At midnight on Friday Mr Grabiner was at the Kensington High Street branch of Radio Rentals to watch the first digital terrestrial receivers being sold and rented. Dixons Oxford Street branch sold out of the small numbers of digital terrestrial receivers available yesterday.

ONdigital, which is broadcasting about 10,000 channels, believes about 10,000 receivers were available for the launch. With more than 4,000 stores needing at least one display model each the numbers available for the launch day were small. "They walked off the shelves as quickly as we could supply them," ONdigital said yesterday. Only one of the "main" five suppliers,

Philips, managed to produce receivers in volume in time for the launch although Pace Micro Electronics produced a small number. Pace is expected to manufacture 18,000 in the coming week and Toshiba. Sony and Nokia are all expected to be producing in volume just before Christmas. ONdigital hopes that around 70,000 receivers will be in the shops before the end of the year.

A shortage of components is being blamed for the shortage of equipment. Apart from the 15 ONdigital channels, which includes premium channels from Sky such as Sky Sports and Sky movies and channels from the main ONdigital partners Carlton and Granada, digital terrestrial will also deliver new channels from the BBC, ITV, and Channel 4.

The BBC is broadcasting BBC Choice, News 24 and from the spring BBC Learning in digital. The new ITV channel ITV 2 will start broadcasting on December 7 and FilmFour, Channel 4's new subscription film service devoted to independent films, costs £5.99 a month.

There has been uncertainty about how many people will be able to receive the entire 30-channel digital terrestrial service. So far, ONdigital says, the indications are that reception is significantly better than the theoretical engineering predictions. Moreover, there have only been a handful of people needing new aerials.

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Commo to vote gramm school

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Goldfish

Commons to vote on grammar schools

By Victoria Fletcher

GRAMMAR schools across Britain will learn this week whether parents will be given the power to turn them comprehensive.

The Commons is to vote tomorrow afternoon on whether a petition of 20 per cent of parents from grammar schools' hinterlands should prompt ballots by parents on their futures. A vote against the grammar school would force it to stop selecting the best local pupils and turn comprehensive.

For generations grammar schools have achieved excellent results and dominated school league tables, but critics claim that their ability to cream off the best local pupils divides communities, puts pressure on children taking the 11-plus examination and depresses the results of local non-selective state schools.

Many of the oldest and most successful of Britain's 166 state grammar schools are worried that there is enough local resentment to trigger a ballot. Ripon Grammar School in North Yorkshire has faced a campaign to abolish it for five years. To date, meetings of anti-grammar school protesters and local councillors have made no changes, but under the proposed regulations it is likely that one fifth of parents would petition for a ballot, which would in turn end its grammar school status.

Before coming to power, Labour promised an end to selective education. David Blunkett, speaking at the Labour conference in 1995, said:

"Watch my lips - no selection, by examination or interview."

But anti-grammar school campaigners said that the proposals to go before the Commons tomorrow are weighted in favour of grammar schools.

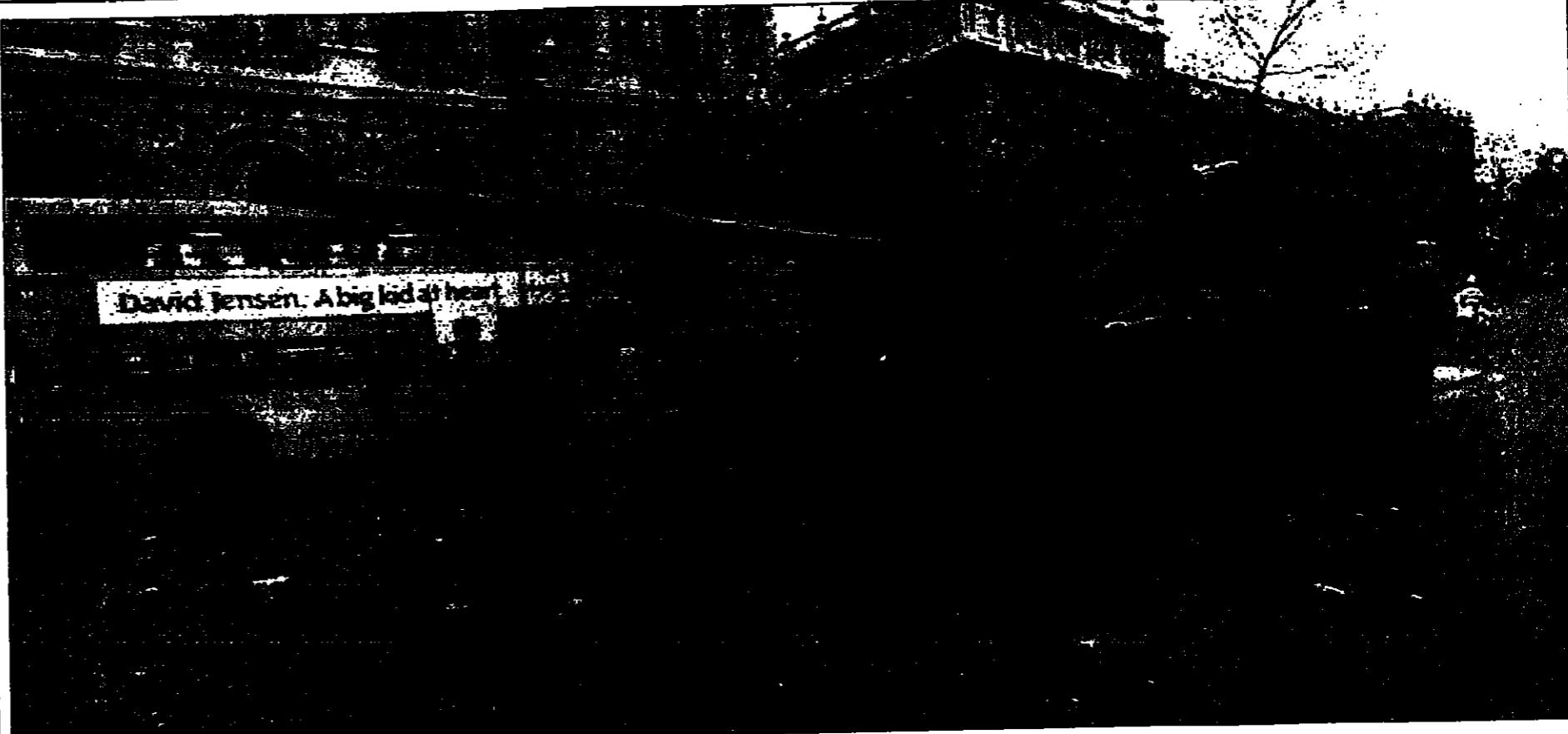
Roy Hattersley, of the Campaign for State Education, said that, in areas where less than 25 per cent of schools are selective, only parents from "feeder" primary schools - those which have sent at least five pupils to the local grammar school in the previous year - would be allowed to petition and vote in the ballot. This would exclude more than 200,000 parents. However, he said he was confident that Mr Blunkett was still in favour of comprehensives.

John Coe, of the National Association for Primary Education, agreed that the voting criteria were too selective. "Their votes ought to be decisive. We want to see selection end as we think, do the majority of primary school teachers and parents," he said.

"In Kingston you have an influx of children coming across the boundaries into Kingston's grammar schools. Parents in the surrounding rural areas can't get their children into these schools if they wanted to."

"However, under the five-pupil rule, half of these parents who live two minutes away from what should be their local school won't even get a say in what type of schooling the area gets. It's really unfair."

Leading article, page 23



David Jensen. A big led at head

Tanks advance on Whitehall

A Challenger 2 tank taking up position in Whitehall yesterday under the watchful eye of an officer, before it and a veteran 1918 Mark V paraded in the centre of London for the first time since the First World War victory parade of 1919. The two tanks drove down Whitehall for a special

remembrance service at the Cenotaph to mark the 80th anniversary of the end of the Great War. The vintage and modern tanks were joined by several

hundred past and present members of The Royal Tank Regiment, including 104-year-old Captain Norman Edwards, the oldest surviving member of the

Tank Corps. After the service, the Challenger 2 drove along Whitehall, dipping its gun in salute as it passed the Cenotaph and then again in Parliament

Square to salute the statue of Winston Churchill. It was during the Great War that the first tanks were introduced to the battlefield, after Churchill decided in 1915 to develop an armoured fighting vehicle that could break the stalemate of trench warfare on the Western Front.

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Fraud trial judge to be pensioned off

By Warwick Mansell

A JUDGE who escaped prosecution for a £1 million mortgage fraud because he was a suicide risk is about to retire early on a lucrative pension.

Judge Richard Gee is completing the details of a pension plan that will allow him to retire aged 56.

A spokeswoman for the Lord Chancellor's Department said that the circuit judge, whose trial at the Old Bailey was halted last month on the instructions of the Attorney-General, John Morris, after a psychiatrist said that con-

tinuing with it would have put his life in danger, had the same pension rights as other judges. He was a member of a non-contributory fund that would pay out an initial lump sum or an index-linked annuity, and was entitled to seek early retirement.

Discussions were taking place between the department and Judge Gee over his retirement, and an announcement was expected "in the next few weeks". He has continued to draw his £87,000 salary since his suspension in 1995.

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NEWS IN BRIEF
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Euthanasia fear
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Guests at the Prince's party, from left, included Stephen Fry, Princess and Prince Michael of Kent, Peter Mandelson, Princess Margaret, Selina Scott and the Duchess of Kent, who said: "Everyone had a marvellous time. It was superb"

A night for jewels, but not the crown

WITH her hair coiffured, diamonds sparkling around her neck and a dazzling smile, Camilla Parker Bowles stepped out of the background at the weekend to host the Prince of Wales's 50th birthday party. Although it was billed as a private event, the occasion will be seen as another milestone as Mrs Parker Bowles took on her most high-profile role yet. Not only did she act as the Prince's consort for one of the biggest gatherings of European royalty in recent years, but she played hostess to senior members of the Royal Family. Princess Margaret, the Duke and Duchess of Kent, Lady Helen Taylor and her husband, Tim, and Prince and Princess Michael of Kent all attended the party. The Duchess of Kent said yesterday: "It was absolutely stunning. The food was wonderful. Everyone had a marvellous time." Asked if the Prince and Mrs Parker Bowles enjoyed themselves, she added: "Of course, it was superb."

The Queen did not attend but, as Claudia Joseph reports, the royal birthday party hosted by Camilla Parker Bowles was a big success

ty, for fear of publicly condoning the relationship, and spent the weekend at Sandringham. They had not invited Mrs Parker Bowles to a birthday reception they held at Buckingham Palace the previous evening. The Princess Royal was also absent on Saturday night, as she was holding a party at Windsor Castle to celebrate the 21st birthday of her son Peter. The Duke of York was on a royal visit to New Zealand and Prince Edward was in Malta representing the Duke of Edinburgh Awards scheme. Mrs Parker Bowles was chauffeured into Highgrove with her sister, Annabel Elliot, at about 6pm. She ordered her driver to slow down for photographers. It was in stark contrast to her appearance at Hampton Court two days earlier,

for the first of the birthday celebrations, when she entered through a side door. Prince William, who arrived in combat gear and an Aston Villa hat before changing into black tie, was less happy to be pictured. Prince Harry was escorted by his father's deputy private secretary, Mark Boland, and Tom and Laura Parker Bowles in a 20-seater bus packed with their friends. More than 250 guests attended the function in the Orchard Room, including Peter Mandelson, Selina Scott, Emma Thompson, Jonathan Dimbleby and Sir David Frost, who did not present his breakfast television show yesterday. Other guests included Tiggy Legge-Bourke, Charles and Patsy Palmer-Tomkinson, their daughters Tara and Santa and

the latter's husband, Simon Sebag-Montefiore. They were treated to a meal of smoked wild salmon, organic lamb and raspberry compote, prepared by Anton Mosimann, the Prince's favourite chef, and drank champagne as they watched sketches by Rory Bremner, Stephen Fry and Rowan Atkinson. Afterwards, the Prince and Mrs Parker Bowles stepped onto the dance floor to a ripple of applause to the sound of an Abba song. In another symbol of her new status, Mrs Parker Bowles was reported to be wearing a diamond necklace that once belonged to her great-grandmother, Alice Keppel, who had an open 12-year affair with Edward VII. Mrs Keppel met the then Prince of Wales over dinner in February 1898 and they conducted a relationship after he was crowned until his death in 1910. Mrs Parker Bowles is alleged to have mentioned the affair when introduced to the Prince of Wales in 1972, saying: "My great-grandmother was your great great-grandfather's mistress, so how about it?" Yesterday, there was more



Mrs Parker Bowles arriving with her sister: her necklace was reported to belong to an ancestor who had a royal affair

support for the idea that the couple might eventually marry. Gary Streeter, 43, a senior Conservative and devout Christian who set up his own evangelical church in Plymouth, said that they should be allowed to marry in church. In

an interview on GMTV's *The Sunday Review*, the Shadow Secretary for International Development said: "Everyone is entitled to a second chance, aren't they? I very much hope we will have a future King who can find happiness in his per-

sonal life. If they want to marry, they should be allowed to marry. Whether she becomes Queen is a constitutional issue that I think is worthy of some debate, but let them be happy."

Mr Streeter's comments came after the Bishop of Durham, the Right Rev Michael Turnbull, became the first bishop to speak publicly in support of a marriage. He said that it would be "more desirable morally" for the couple to marry.

Letters, page 23

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RAF may lose Queen's Flight to private sector

MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE EDITOR

THE RAF squadron that flies the Royal Family, ministers and senior military staff could be replaced by a private company offering a cheaper deal. The possibility that a company such as Richard Branson's Virgin Group could take over the Queen's Flight operation emerged yesterday when a Ministry of Defence advertisement appeared in *Flight International* magazine asking for suggestions from interested parties.

George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, revealed on BBC's *On The Record* programme that the Royal House-

hold had asked the MoD to look into alternative ways of running the operation. The Royal Household pays for the Royal Family's use of 32 (The Royal) Squadron, based at RAF Northolt, West London, which this year will cost £13.4 million.

MoD sources said that, although total privatisation was an "extreme" option, it was a possibility. The sources indicated, however, that whatever solution was agreed, it was likely that RAF pilots would still fly the aircraft carrying the Royal Family and that the planes would stay at Northolt.

The MoD will remain responsible for the flight's security. Mr Robertson said: "The RAF will clearly want to have an input and, as Defence Secretary, so will I." The squadron is also used by Tony Blair, his Cabinet ministers and the most senior military officers. The Government pays the bulk of its running costs. The MoD is looking for initial proposals by November 23 and a decision is expected by April. A Virgin Group spokesman said that Mr Branson's airline, Virgin Atlantic, might be interested.

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Sixty years on, Newbury gets bypass at last

Police are prepared for disruptions, but residents are in a mood to celebrate, reports Helen Johnstone

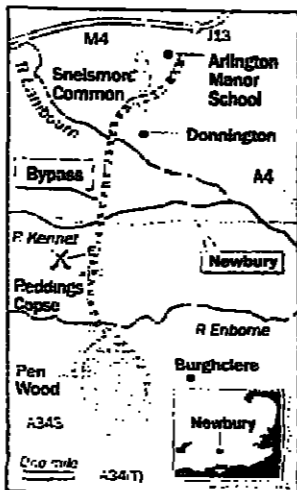
POLICE are converging on a former battlefield to prepare for the official opening of the most expensive stretch of rural bypass ever built in Britain.

Sixty-two years and two public inquiries after the idea was first mooted, the £100 million Newbury bypass will open to a fanfare of congratulations from locals and the threat of disruption from protesters who delayed its construction.

No official date has been given by the Highways Agency, although the low-key opening is thought to be imminent. Police are preparing for any eventuality. Coachloads of security guards are reportedly standing by and helicopters have been patrolling the area, which skirts the site of First Battle of Newbury in 1645, when forces of the Earl of Essex, returning to London from the siege of Gloucester, were blocked by Royalists.

Superintendent Mervyn Edwards, a Thames Valley officer posted to police the bypass three years ago, expects to see a few familiar faces from his own battle at Newbury in January 1996. Thousands of protesters from all over the country, including many dug in at 35 camps along its 8½-mile route, engaged in running battles with police and contractors sent to clear 10,000 trees. At the height of the main confrontation, which lasted nearly four months, almost 1,000 people were arrested as bailiffs evicted protesters from trees. The worst recorded casualty was a bailiff who fell from a tree, breaking a small bone in his back.

A fifth of the £100 million cost went on security, which included private guards who are still on site and fencing the entire route. The fencing is being kept to keep deer and other



wildlife off the road. The bypass also involved the most extensive environmental project undertaken on a road building project.

Among 15 species protected, Desmoulin's whorl snails were moved to a new habitat and adders and grass snakes relocated. Sites of special scientific interest at Enslinmore Common and on the banks of the Rivers Kennet and Lambourn were protected, and flints of a Stone Age site discovered at Lambourn Valley were preserved.

Stephen Rowsell, the project director, who employed 5,000 workers, is celebrating finishing on time, despite some of the worst weather on record. He is also proud of the environmental achievements, with 200,000 trees planted.

"A lot of lessons have been learnt, which will be used on other schemes," he said. "The snakes are apparently very happy and the snails are breeding like rabbits. English Nature is very pleased. We all had common aims in terms of wanting minimum impact on

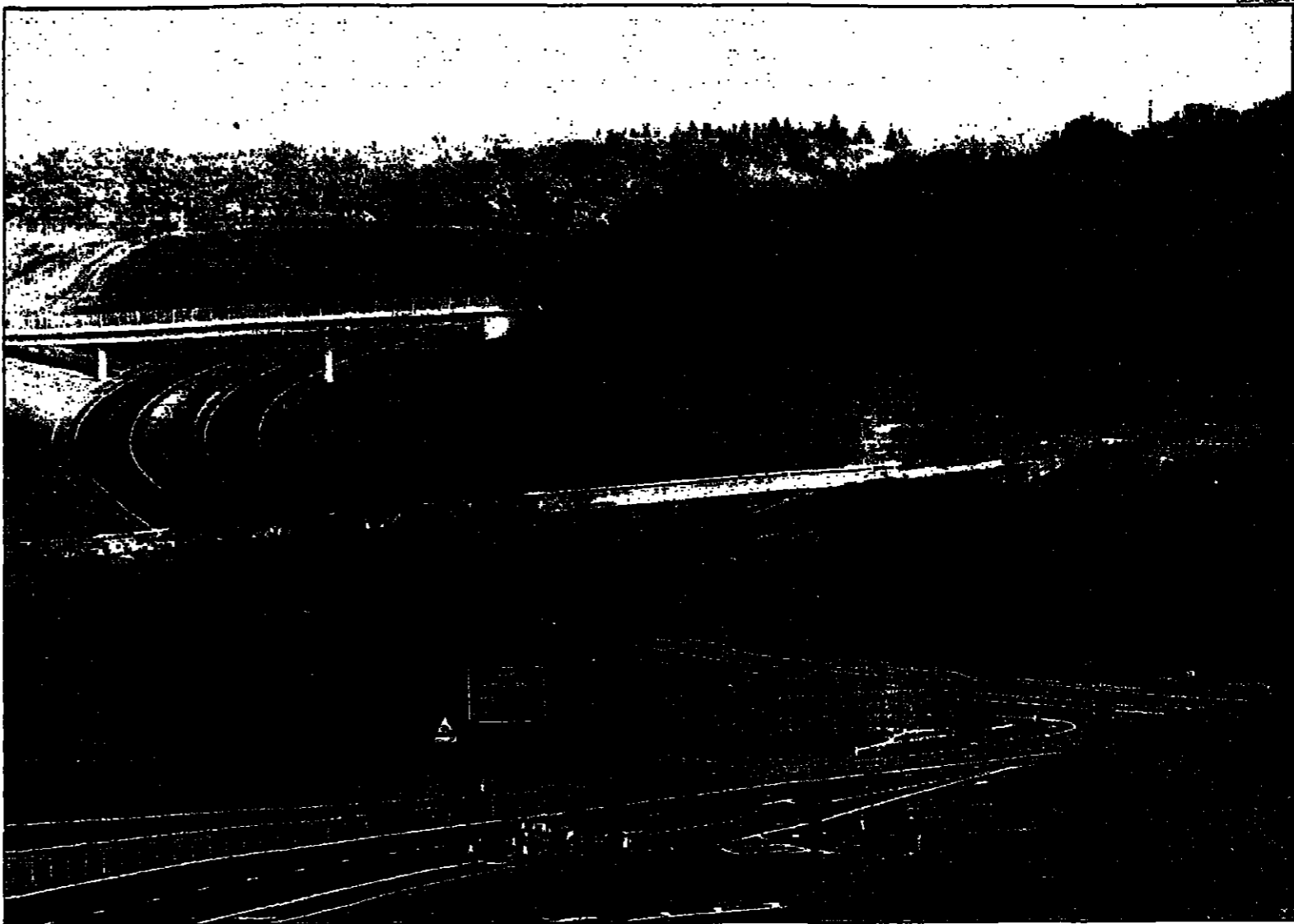
the environment. But I disagree with the way some people resorted to illegal methods at huge expense to the taxpayer."

Newbury has pledged to pedestrianise its main street within hours of the bypass opening. The town's 27,000 inhabitants expect more than 250,000 vehicles a week to be taken out of the town, including 400 lorries per hour, on what was the only remaining section of single carriageway on the A34 between the Midlands and the South Coast.

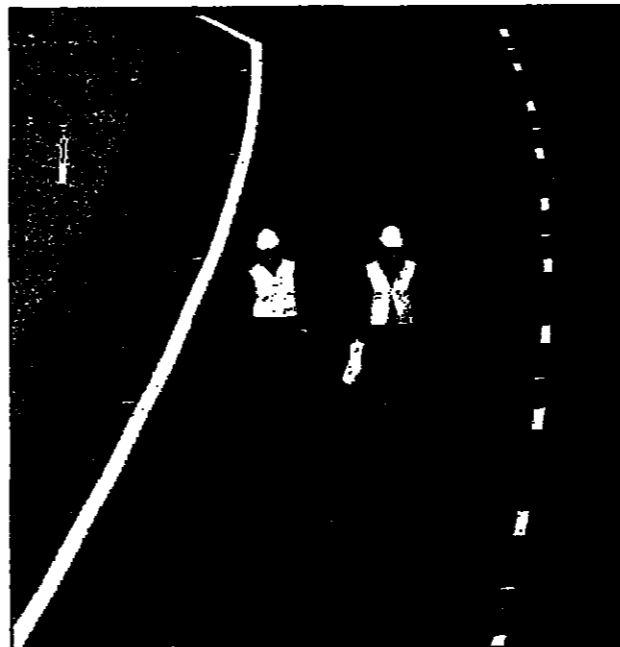
Peter Gilmour, a spokesman for Newbury District Council, said that retailers had unanimously agreed to pedestrianise immediately, despite the danger of disrupting Christmas trade. He said: "We are optimistic it will be done by the end of the week. The town has always been in favour of the bypass. All the surveys showed five out of six people wanted it."

Mr Edwards, who expects to return to normal duties after the opening, still has two full-time officers in the area. There were 18 at the height of the protest, with up to 400 extra officers being drafted in daily. "I have found the job challenging, enjoyable and fascinating. The protesters said it was going to be the biggest road protest the country had ever seen and it lived up to that." One thousand and fourteen people have been arrested since the operation began, including about two dozen private security guards and a small number of contractors.

The last arrest was several months ago; few protesters have been seen in recent months. Mr Edwards added: "Over the years we have got to know some of them. While there is a hard core who will stop at nothing, the vast major-



The Newbury bypass, expected to open in the next few days, was first mooted in 1936. At £100 million, it is the most expensive rural bypass yet built



Secure route: more guards will be posted for the opening

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- Road: 8½ miles, with 31 miles of fencing.
- History: first mooted in 1936. Took three years to build, starting in 1995.
- Project cost: a total of £100 million, including £20 million on security.
- Police costs: £7.5 million. Three officers continuously employed since September 1995. At height of protest, 18 employed full-time and up to 400 daily.
- Arrests: 1,014 since September 1995, including 832 during the four-month clearance period between January and April 1996.
- Trees: 10,000 were cut down during construction, but 200,000 have been planted.
- Wildlife: 15 separate species were protected, including badgers, otters, snakes and snails.
- Employment: the workforce employed on construction of the road was 5,000, approximately 500 working on any given day.
- Traffic: estimates the completed road should reduce traffic to 250,000 vehicles a week, including 400 lorries in the morning rush-hour.
- Security: 350,000 metres of fencing, 400 private security guards and 35 camps on the route. At least 6,000 protesters.

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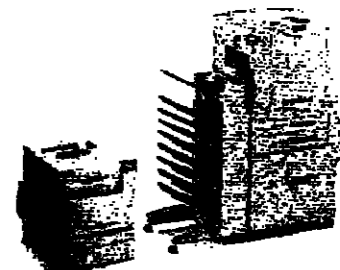
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Police chief defends Hillsborough role

By RUSSELL JENKINS

NORMAN BETTISON, who starts his job as Chief Constable of Merseyside today, has appealed to the families of Hillsborough victims to meet him at any time and any place to resolve the festering row over his appointment.

The Hillsborough Families Support Group claims that, after the football stadium disaster in 1989 in which 96 people died, Mr Bettison was in a special police unit that tried to cover up police errors and blame the Liverpool fans. Three members of the Merseyside Police Authority have resigned, saying that he should have been more forthcoming when interviewed for the job.

However, Mr Bettison says that Maria Eagle, the Labour MP for Liverpool Garston, who criticised his appointment in the Commons, has since admitted that she is impressed by his "willingness to be open", and agreed that the sooner he meets the families, the better.

The 42-year-old police officer, son of a Rotherham steel-

worker, spoke yesterday of his growing frustration at a political campaign to stop him taking up the post.

He said: "All that has been in the public domain is speculation and rumour born of the statement made by Maria Eagle. She made it with parliamentary privilege and never repeated any of the allegations."

"No one else has done anything but repeated that House of Commons speech. No evidence to substantiate that main statement has been forthcoming. I know that because there is no evidence to substantiate these allegations."

"They are simply not true and the more time has gone on, over the five weeks between the appointment and now, the more I have wanted to go to the people of Merseyside to lay the ghost."

An approach to Ms Eagle appears to have broken the deadlock and opened the way to meetings in the next few weeks. "This furore has been unfortunate for me and unfor-



Eagle accepts Bettison's willingness to be open

fortunate for Merseysiders. It must have been downright distressing for the families and their supporters. What I want to say to them is, "This is what I actually did in two to three months following the Hillsborough disaster. I hope their reaction will be similar to that expressed by Maria Eagle when she finally saw the whites of my eyes."

He says he particularly wants to meet Trevor Flicks, the leader of the support group, and other families. He

has never sought to divert blame on to fans, he insists. Asked whether he has anything to be ashamed of in his record as a police officer for South Yorkshire, he replies: "No, not one iota."

On the day of the disaster, Mr Bettison was a spectator in the South Stand, close to the Leppings Lane End where the deaths occurred. He immediately reported to the nearest police station and began the task of reuniting anguished families with their missing friends and relatives.

Subsequently he was seconded to an internal South Yorkshire Police unit set up primarily, he insists, to make some sense of what had happened on the day and review procedures. "You have to remember it was a topsy-turvy time for South Yorkshire Police as an organisation," said Mr Bettison, whose role was to review and rewrite the major incident manual.

"I was not involved in planning a strategy for solicitors or agreeing a brief for them," he said. "I have never attempted to shift the blame from South



Norman Bettison: says he wants to meet those bereaved by the Hillsborough stadium disaster as soon as possible

Yorkshire Police into any other area, particularly the area of the fans."

His record was available to the members of the police authority who interviewed him for chief constable, he says. He had been perfectly prepared to

talk about his experiences but, he says, was more concerned to stress his fitness for high office through his experience as a first officer.

"South Yorkshire Police accepted publicly and forcefully the blame that Lord Justice

Taylor charged them with," he said. "I understand the depth of feeling and anger that pervades, particularly here on Merseyside, about the fact that no individual has ever been convicted or held to account formally before a court."

I understand that residual anger and frustration.

"I had no idea until I was appointed that any of that could be focused on me. I want the opportunity, as quickly as possible, to show to the families how unjustified that is."

Forces may seek new blood from the boardroom

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

BUSINESS executives could be headhunted from big companies to become chief constables and senior police commanders under reforms being debated by a Home Office group.

Suitable candidates might go straight to the top job or become assistant chief constables and be trained in police work with the possibility of promotion later. The idea is to improve the standard of leadership.

Other options include sending officers on secondment to gain business experience and, likewise, bringing in civilian executives for placements in areas such as finance, technology and personnel.

Introducing new blood from the boardroom is among possible reforms to be considered by a new joint working party of police, Home Office officials and members of police authorities set up by Jack Straw, the Home Secretary. The group has been told that ministers expect nothing to be excluded from its study.

The working party was formed because Mr Straw and his senior police officials are alarmed at the poverty of talent applying for top jobs.

He is concerned that the next generation lacks management and financial skills to improve efficiency.

Police authorities have also expressed concern that too many senior officers lack individuality or experience of life outside the police. One worry is that up to half the officers trained as possible senior officers never apply for posts or refuse to change forces.

Catherine Crawford, secretary of the Association of Police Authorities and a member of the group working party, said: "We have decided not to rule anything out."

Any changes might need legislation and the Home Office would also have to increase salaries to compete with the commercial world.

Last century chief officers were not required to have police training and, as recently as 1944, Sir Harold Scott, a civil servant, was appointed Metropolitan Police Commissioner.

In the 1980s Margaret Thatcher, as Prime Minister, suggested recruiting redundant military officers as senior policemen. Whitehall and the police were hostile to the idea, arguing that they would lack relevant experience.

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V&A treasures 'jeopardised by security cuts'

STAFF at the Victoria and Albert Museum have given a warning that millions of objects are being put at risk by plans to privatise security arrangements.

It is feared that weekend and night patrols will be scrapped at a repository housing one of the nation's most important collections of Oriental art, textiles and furniture.

The warning comes five days after the museum admitted that two of its Constable oil sketches, *Dedham Lock and Mill* and *Sketch for Valley Farm*, had been stolen. Their combined value was £800,000.

A security guard at the museum claims that it is proposed to lay off guards at Blythe House, a sprawling warehouse in Olympia, West London. He said that the repository, which is almost as large as Harrods, was shared with the British Museum and the Science Museum.

He said that last Friday, when the V&A was still searching its premises in case the two Constables had only been mislaid, 16 guards at the museum were told of a decision to privatise security arrangements once the V&A took over the administration of the repository from the British Museum in

Staff warn of plans to scrap weekend and night patrols at depot, reports Dalya Alberge

March. The V&A was already planning similar moves for its other repositories, he said.

He alleged that the museum planned to install alarm systems at the expense of manpower. "If there is a flood over a weekend, alarms won't pick that up. No one will discover it until Monday morning, when it will be too late. As 80 per cent of the objects are not even in show-cases, it would be a disaster." There had been quite a few floods in the past that "were caught in time. It's so short-sighted, when you see what's in there. We're appalled."

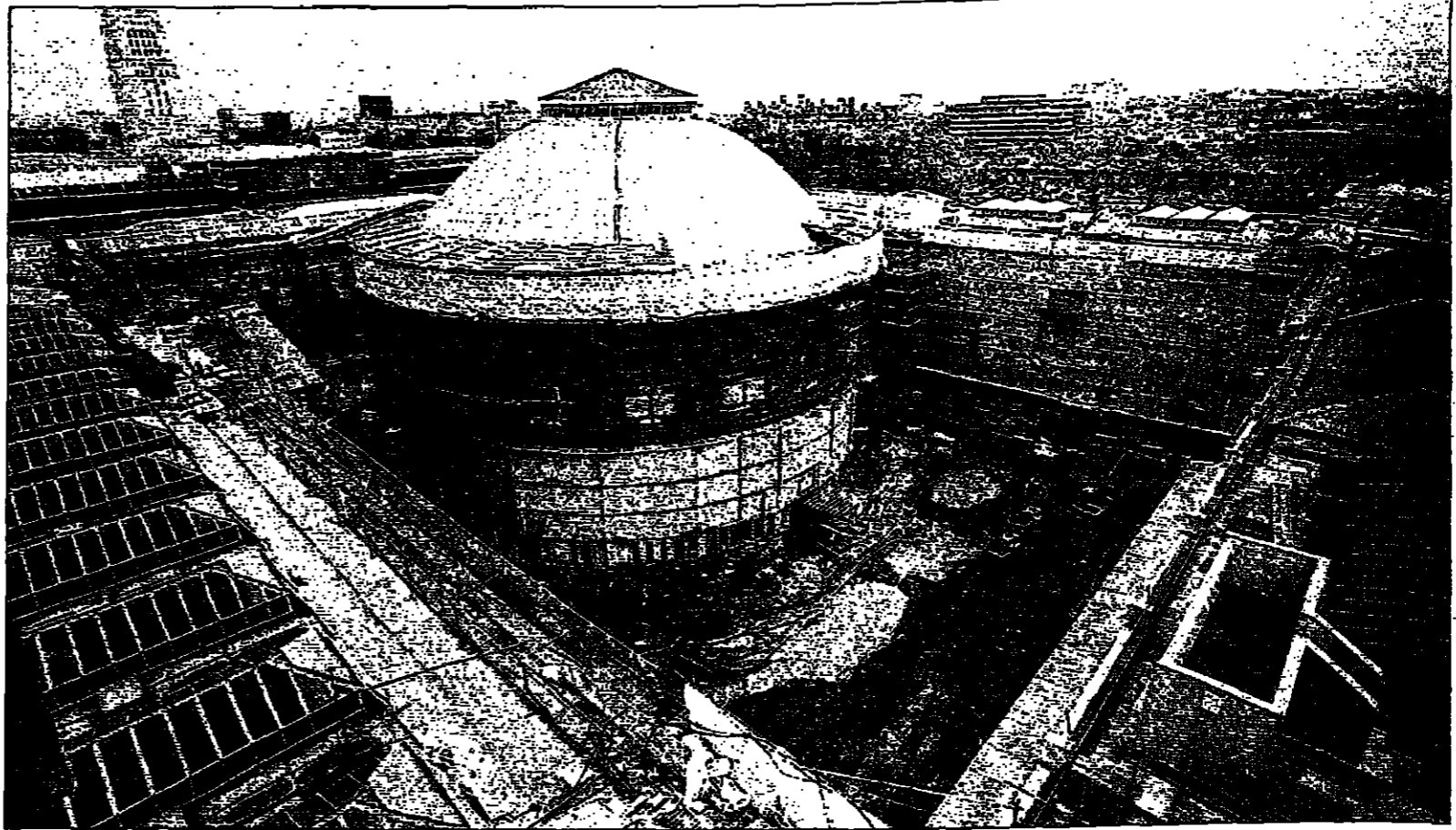
He said that the move was about cost-cutting. "They could cut an hourly rate of £7 or £8 to £4.50, doing away with pensions and sick pay."

The repository is inside the old Post Office Savings Bank,

a Victorian building in which Lord Antenor's *Chaplin* was partly filmed. The guard said that the rooms were alarmed, but the objects were on open show: a collection ranging from the largest textile collection in Europe to Samurai swords was available for public viewing by appointment. The guard said that, although the British Museum had offered jobs to the guards at Great Russell Street, staff remained dismayed at the decision.

Alan Borg, director of the V&A, confirmed yesterday that privatisation of security was being examined and said staff were bound to be concerned. "What we would be looking for is a service as good, if not better, than what we currently have. . . . At the moment, there are no plans to change the nature of security cover."

He said that the museum was in the earliest stages of discussions with various private security firms, and he dismissed the suggestion that night and weekend patrols would go. But, asked to give an assurance that the museum would never contemplate such a move, he said: "There is no such thing as 'never'."



The Round Reading Room stands alone in the Great Court of the British Museum after the surrounding bookstacks were dismantled or demolished

Demolition reveals museum's Great Court

BY MARCUS BINNEY

THE Great Court of the British Museum, unseen for 150 years, has been restored to its original two-acre expanse by the demolition of the giant bookstack blocks around the Round Reading Room.

In one of the most delicate

demolition jobs undertaken in London, iron and concrete bookstacks up to six storeys high were dismantled, cut up or crushed. While some of the 1,500 lorryloads of debris was lifted out by a crane in the museum's forecourt, most had to be carried out through two narrow basement tunnels. On

English Heritage's instructions, the museum dismantled the 141-year-old wrought-iron bookcases, which filled a quarter of the courtyard and were listed in their own right.

They were taken to Biggin Hill, where they are available to anyone who wishes to recover them. Once a quarter of

the courtyard had been opened, three large excavators were lifted in pieces over the museum's roof into the court. They demolished the remaining concrete bookstacks, which had been built before and after the Second World War.

Carl Wright, of MACE, the management contractor, said: "The excavator drivers are very skilled. They had to break down parts of the structure to build up platforms of debris to reach the top of the bookstacks, which were 20 metres above ground." The use of pneumatic hammers, however, was stopped when Greek statues in the museum's galleries began shaking.

In 1852, 30 years after the present museum opened, the architect Sir Charles Barry suggested covering the courtyard with a glass roof like that of the Crystal Palace, but the museum's keeper of printed books, Antonio Panizzi, demanded that the courtyard be used for a new reading room. Designed by Sir Sydney Smirke, it will be preserved complete with all its handsome fittings. A public art library will fill the ground floor, while the two upper levels will house the museum's working library. It is intended that the public library remain open late, with computer terminals providing information on the museum's collections.

After excavations to create underground lecture theatres, the Great Court will be covered with a steel and glass lattice roof, inset with 6,040 triangular panes of glass. The £97 million project, masterminded by Sir Norman Foster, is due for completion in the summer of 2000.

Posthumous surprise left in author's desk

BY JOHN SHAW

A COLLECTION of rare stamps has been found among the papers of Hammond Innes, the bestselling novelist who died in June. He was not known as a stamp collector.

The two albums containing rarities from St Helena were found by executors at his home in Kersey, Suffolk. They are expected to fetch about £11,000 at Sotheby's on December 18.

Tony Banwell, a stamp specialist at Sotheby's, described the collection as "a specialist's dream". It includes a block of six from St Helena's first post-1856 issue. Mr Banwell said it was in good condition, and surmised that only three such blocks were known. A second album contains multiple issues and large sheets from 1870.

Innes was a yachtsman, and £5.4 million of his estate of £6.8 million will go to the Association of Sea Training Organisations, which represents 14 British sail training organisations.

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THE TIMES MONDAY NOVEMBER 16 1998

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Look, no strings: Gerry Anderson with some of the characters of *Lavender Castle*, which breaks new ground in animation by mixing stop-motion puppetry with computer-generated images. The 26-part series starts on ITV this winter

Thunderbirds heirs head for space again

GERRY ANDERSON, who produced *Thunderbirds* and *Fireball XL5*, is preparing to recruit a new generation of young admirers who have never heard of Troy Tempest, Captain Scarlet, Parker or Lady Penelope.

Gerry Anderson has used computers to create a puppet series for a new generation, writes Russell Jenkins

many children have seen one of my shows. When I first went to the conventions, children of eight would ask for my autograph. As the years rolled by they became university graduates.

new dimension to children's television with *The Adventures of Thizzle* and *Torchy the Battery Boy* and went on to create *Supercar*, *Stringray*, *Captain Scarlet* and *Space 1999*. There is not a puppet string in sight. *Lavender Castle* follows a space adventure by a band of intergalactic misfits led by Captain Thrice and their clashes with Dr Agon, the most mean and disgusting being in the galaxy.

Agon wants to steal that light, plunging the universe into darkness. If the Tolkienesque characters appear familiar, it is hardly surprising. They are the inspiration of Rodney Matthews, the designer responsible for many of those hippy album covers in the 1970s.

ter-generated images with the stop-motion puppetry we can achieve a very much bigger canvas. He insists that he does not live with the ghosts of series past at his home in Henley-on-Thames. You will not find Mike Mercury or Troy Tempest occupying the spare bedroom. The drive to complete the new series comes from his love of technological change and his need for the wealth to fulfil his artistic expression.

you are really wealthy, like some Hollywood producers, you can choose your own direction and everybody climbs aboard the bandwagon. "In terms of complete freedom, it would be wonderful to be filthy rich. I can put my hand on my heart and say this is the one show I have made I really believe will take off. It is a truly family show. It has wonderful characters, brilliant animation and great special effects."



Judith Gibbins: sexy cut-glass vowels

Single mother is heroine to millions

By Peter Foster

BY DAY she teaches ballet in a Derbyshire mining town, drives a Ford Sierra and takes her 11-year-old son to school. But in another dimension Judith Gibbins, 36, is every teenage boy's fantasy woman, armed to the teeth and with vital statistics that would make a Page 3 girl blanch.

bid to save the world. The games have already sold six million copies worldwide and made instant millionaires of the Derby-based computer programmers who invented her. Mrs Gibbins was chosen for the part two years ago from a group of local actresses. The game's creators say that her authoritative, but sexy, cut-glass vowels were what won her the part, but the single mother has little in common with her alter ego.

diers' Daughters' School in London. Her ranting Sierra also contrasts with Ms Croft's mode of transport — a snowmobile. At 5ft 8in, Mrs Gibbins is an inch shorter than her computerised counterpart, whose vital statistics are 34D-24-35. Mrs Gibbins (24-26-38) is a green-eyed blonde, while Lara is a brown-eyed brunette.

sitting behind a screen showing a digital image of Lara. Her lips moved whenever I spoke. Beforehand what we thought people would ask — like what were my favourite artefacts and so on. In fact, most of the questions were "Will you marry me?", "Can I have a date with you?", and "What size are your breasts?"



Lara Croft: the Indiana Jane of cyberspace

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Leading men struggle to stay in time on dance floor

INSIDE GERMANY



BY ROGER BOYES

At least since the days of Trollope, dances have served as a metaphor for the whirlygig of the political class: partners are changed, there is courtship, gossip, matchmaking and secret assignments. On Friday Bonn held its final press ball — the next will be in the new-old capital of Berlin — and the Government turned out in force along with 3,600 other guests, 1,500 oysters, 2,500 bottles of champagne and 50 kilos of doomed lobster.

"She's absolutely brilliant," said one dazzled reveler of Christa Müller, the powerful neo-Keynesian wife of Oskar Lafontaine, the Finance Minister. "But who is that funny little man next to her?" Frau Müller dressed, to reflect her world view, in black and

white. Gerhard Schröder, the Chancellor, was accompanied by his wife, Doris — in striking salmon-pink silk. She was the belle of the ball, having apparently forgiven morally rigorous organisers for confining him to an isolated table when he was merely

an adulterous Opposition politician. Joschka Fischer, the Foreign Minister, his jeans and T-shirt days behind him, came with a chain-smoking trainee journalist tipped to become his fourth wife.

If you take off your spectacles at a ball, the faces merge and, those shimmering personalities, so distinct on television, become as one: the politicians in their faintly sinister dinner-jacket uniform seem part of one heaving mass. It was ever thus, at French dances — Talleyrand was not the only man to serve many masters — and at the frenzied ball season during the Congress of Vienna. Close your eyes and Gerhard Schröder becomes Helmut Kohl.

Herr Schröder's enemies are saying that he spent his

election campaign promoting himself as a younger, more efficient version of Herr Kohl and is now stranded without a defined political position. Where is Schröder? asked Spiegel magazine.

The vacuum has been filled by Herr Lafontaine, the only man with ideological contours. The election slogan that counted most for the newly rediscovered centrist voters was: "We won't do everything differently but we will do a lot better." This rather meaty-mouthed promise was attached to posters of Herr Schröder plastered throughout the country. The fact is that Herr Kohl was the Sun King, the fixed reference point for all political players.

Wolfgang Schäuble, for example, was marketed as Hel-

mut Kohl's crown prince. Now he is leader of the Christian Democratic Party, but his parliamentary performance last week seemed to lack weight. With the backing of Herr Kohl, Herr Schäuble's sharp tongue and quick brain made him a heavy hitter; last week he was merely waspish.

Herr Schröder also needed Herr Kohl, being more modern than Herr Kohl, more relaxed, more pragmatic, closer to the people on Europe and the Euro, more in touch and less pontifical. The playful reference to Gerhard Blair was always off the mark. Rather, the politician on offer was Gerhard Kohl. The two-hour government declaration read out by Herr Schröder last week with all the commitment of a student presenting

a hastily cobbled end-of-term paper, revealed almost nothing about the new Chancellor. There were pragmatic points — the exit from nuclear energy — which mark a new departure but they did not belong to Herr Schröder in any personal way.

It was on Europe that he could have broken out, showing that he is neither a piker version of Herr Kohl nor a slavish spokesman of the centre-left European consensus. Early on in the election campaign, after all, he declared it would be better to delay European monetary union than start on the basis of a weak or politically manipulated Euro.

In six weeks time Germany takes over the European pres-

idency for a term that includes the euro's introduction. Herr Kohl would have presented this as the dawn of an era. Herr Schröder made it sound like a rather tiresome, minor operation necessary for the continental economy's health.

Helmut Schmidt, the last Social Democratic Chancellor, used to say that politicians with visions should see an optician. Even so, he put together — in an almost visionary way — the early European monetary system. Herr Schröder has no vision and seems to be saying that Germany demands managerial leadership.

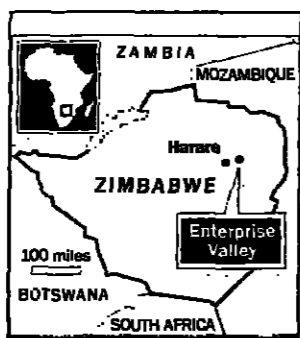
The net effect is that Herr Schröder sounds like Helmut Kohl on many aspects of Europe — the need for more po-

litical integration, for harmonised taxes, for budgetary reform. There are differences, however. Plainly the Social Democrats want a more social Europe and an effective French, want a political counterweight to the European Central Bank.

But the differences are not being defined by the Chancellor but by a continuing conversation between Herr Lafontaine and his French counterpart, Dominique Strauss-Kahn. These two are setting the tone of Franco-German relations and mapping out the future. Herr Schröder would do well to demonstrate quickly that he is not adrift on Europe. Otherwise he will end up as a wallflower, rather than as the star of the ball.

Mugabe turns blind eye to squatter terror

FROM JAN RAATH IN ENTERPRISE VALLEY, ZIMBABWE



ANARCHY is spreading across the highly developed farmland east of Harare as guerrilla war veterans lead hundreds of squatters on to white-owned land that they claim is theirs historically.

Armed veterans have barricaded farmers inside their farmyards and threatened to kill them. Farming operations on about 20 properties have been hampered by a co-ordinated campaign of violence, harassment and intimidation that authorities have done almost nothing to contain.

Two whites were murdered and an elderly couple knifed last week. Although police deny there is any connection between the attacks and the squatters, the incidents have created a climate of fear that re-

calls the country's guerrilla war before independence.

The killings were "part of a lawless situation prevailing in the province", said Chris Molam, chief executive of the Zimbabwe Tobacco Association. "There are squatters all over the place and it seems police are not doing their job."

Owen Connor, 64, was woken at dawn on Saturday with a message from a squatter en-

campment near his homestead that he was to leave the property by noon. "They said if I didn't, my life would be in danger," he said.

He ignored their orders, but moved his parents-in-law and his pregnant daughter to Harare. Police assured him that officers would be sent to protect him. They were not. That night about 60 squatters lit a bonfire 20 yards from the homestead, beat drums, sang and catted for hours. Calls to the police station a mile away were fruitless.

Since the squatters arrived a week ago, labourers have been beaten up and ordered not to go to work and farm equipment and produce stolen. Eight neighbouring farms have been occupied and the owners threatened with guns.

"I am going to hang in here and hope that law and order will prevail," Mr Connor said.



Kurds outside a military hospital in Rome where Abdullah Ocalan, head of the Kurdish Workers' Party, is being held. He fell ill after his arrest

Rome: Nearly 2,000 Kurdish émigrés, waving the red banner of "independent Kurdistan" and shouting anti-Turkish slogans converged on Rome from all over Europe at the weekend to demand that Italy grant political asylum to Abdullah Ocalan, the

fugitive Kurdish leader arrested at Rome airport on Thursday (Richard Owen writes). But two senior Turkish ministers who flew to

Rome yesterday for a meeting of the Western European Union urged Massimo D'Alema, the Italian Prime Minister, to agree instead to Ankara's request for Mr Ocalan's extradition. Greens and Communists in Signor D'Alema's coalition backed Mr Ocalan's application for asylum,

arguing that the leader of the PKK (the Kurdish Workers' Party) faced certain execution if sent back to Turkey. Protests were also held in Bonn. Prisoners in a Turkish jail took an Italian inmate hostage in an effort to force Italy to extradite Mr Ocalan.

arguing that the leader of the PKK (the Kurdish Workers' Party) faced certain execution if sent back to Turkey. Protests were also held in Bonn. Prisoners in a Turkish jail took an Italian inmate hostage in an effort to force Italy to extradite Mr Ocalan.



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Tiananmen's legacy hangs over Jakarta

FROM DAVID WATTS IN JAKARTA

BATTLE lines hardened yesterday between the Indonesian Government and reformers as the dead were buried after violent clashes between students and riot police. As the threat of further unrest hung over Jakarta, a crackdown like the one in Beijing against pro-democracy students in Tiananmen Square seemed increasingly likely if the Government persisted with its hard line. "Even the students know they need blood," said one observer. "When blood flows the ball starts rolling. That's the reality, the inhuman aspect of any political movement."

for 13 hours — but it was hard to see what subversion could achieve in a country that is already on its knees. A hundred million Indonesians live below the poverty line, existing on 2,000 calories a day. The Government's refusal to accommodate the demands of the extra-parliamentary leaders, who represent millions of followers, and the student leadership's determination to march on parliament, leaves the outlook bleak.

The parliament has become a symbol of the struggle. It resembles a garrison. The grounds are full of heavily armed police and soldiers, while less than a mile away the students ponder their next move and clean up their medical facilities which, at Atma Jaya University alone, treated 120 people on Friday and Saturday for teargas and gunshot wounds. President Habibie evidently did not understand the seriousness of what was happening over the weekend. At one point he tried to have his presidential motorcade pass down one of the main streets in the business district, already a full-fledged battleground. The habits of dictatorship persist and Mohammad Suharto, the former President, was quoted as saying that the Government should at least try to talk to the students. But the student leadership itself is a new phenomenon in Indonesian politics: a small tight-knit group trusting no-one but themselves. On the streets there is a commander, a deputy and two representatives from each of the activist universities. No won-



A security guard at a Jakarta shopping mall keeps watch from behind a barricade yesterday as the capital braced itself for more violent clashes



Clearing up at a looted takeaway restaurant

der that government intelligence on their activities is said to be poor and inaccurate. The students are well-briefed, they have done their homework, but come determined to treat the situation as they find it. It is the students who have written the reform agenda that populist leaders like the Muslim, Amien Rais, attempted to have introduced at the parliamentary session last week. But leaders like him fear the outcome of student radicalism which, if successful, could destroy what is left of Indone-

sia's institutions and reduce the country to a Lebanon-like state of armed political factions. The Army and the assembly may be flawed, goes the argument, but the alternative could be anarchy. "The army has shown the ability to work underground to cause chaos. Thousands of vigilantes were brought in from Bandung and paid to cause trouble," said an Indonesian source. "Senior politicians are afraid the political structure will crumble. They want to rock the principals but

not the infrastructure." Yesterday dawned with smoke still rising from gutted buildings in Chinatown — after the bloody mayhem of Friday in which soldiers killed indiscriminately and a mob rampaged through what remains of that vital part of the capital. The Marines on duty there were outnumbered and unable to stop the destruction. In other instances, the army stood back and let the rioters vent their frustration on unarmed opponents. They grabbed anything to

hand, stacked the goods in the street and burnt them. One Chinese merchant, escorted away from his shop by Marines, was set upon by the mob and had to jump into a dyke to escape. Many of the buildings restored after the devastation of last May are once again wrecked and Indonesians are left wondering if their Government has learnt anything in the interim. □ Albright snub: Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, met the wife of Anwar Ib-

rahim, the jailed Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister, in a gesture of solidarity before breaking off her visit to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Kuala Lumpur to return to Washington yesterday to deal with the Iraq crisis. The meeting was seen as a parting snub to Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the Malaysian Prime Minister, and came as police fired teargas and water cannon at protesters demanding an end to Dr Mahathir's 17-year rule.

Japan assures Burgundy corker of a year

PRICES jumped again at yesterday's closely-watched Burgundy wine sales, powered by a demand from Japan that has not been quenched by the economic hangover in the Far East. While the world economy is suffering from the shakes, the auction at the celebrated Hospices de Beaune in Burgundy showed that the French market in fine wine, like all the best vintages, is growing more valuable ever year. The annual sales

Crisis in the East has not sapped interest in fine wine, writes Ben Macintyre in Paris in Beaune are regarded as a key indicator of the health of the wine industry and the quality of the vintage. The wines sold at the auction have seen spectacular rises in recent years, including a 47 per cent increase last year. The first lots sold yesterday were up again by 10 to 15 per cent, driven by Japanese demand, according to wine experts. Wine exports to Japan rose 100 per cent in the first half of this year, partly because of recently published scientific reports showing that red wine is good for the health. "We are

astonished by the persistent strength of the Japanese demand," Antoine Jacquet, director of the Hospices de Beaune, said. Wine critics and buyers were able to taste the 1998 Burgundy vintage for the first time this weekend before the sale started, and the public will get its first sip of the new wine crop when Beaujolais Nouveau is distributed on Thursday. Proceeds from the auction, held in the ancient town square at Beaune,

will go to a charity for sick children. The wines on sale, including such famous names as Montrachet, Pommard and Corton, are grown on land donated over hundreds of years to the Hospices de Beaune charity hospital. This year is expected to be an excellent one for wine in much of France, although there are fears that the quality of the Burgundy may have suffered from heavy rainfall during harvesting.



An auctioneer takes bids at the Beaune wine sale

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SHOWDOWN WITH IRAQ

Region breathes a sigh of relief

Iraqis oblivious to near-catastrophe

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

THE Arab world breathed a collective sigh of relief and welcomed Saddam's capitulation over weapons inspections.

But there was a feeling that a showdown had merely been postponed, given the Iraqi leader's record, the continuing military build-up and America's apparent determination to test Iraq with intrusive new searches of sensitive sites when the weapons inspectors return. "The Iraqi de-

ARAB REACTION

cision is good news for the Arab nation and all the Gulf states," said Rashed Abdallah al-Nuaimi, the Foreign Minister of the United Arab Emirates.

A Qatari Foreign Ministry official said: "We hope this will help to resolve the crisis and eventually lead to the lifting of sanctions."

The Iraqi leader was left isolated in the Arab world last week when the six members of the Gulf Co-operation Council said Saddam must bear responsibility for any attack. The Palestinian Authority welcomed signs that military action had been averted.

THE THREATS by President Clinton to use force against Saddam Hussein and support opposition groups were yesterday dismissed by the Iraqi President's followers. But boosted by state-sponsored ignorance, few knew how close they had come to airstrikes over the weekend when American bombers were turned back as they flew over Saudi Arabian airspace.

"We are prepared to resist any aggression. For our country, for our President, we are not afraid of the Americans," Najleeh al-Azari insisted. "The Iraqi people are dancing and singing."

Did she know that on Saturday night B52 bombers with cruise missiles were half an hour from raining death and devastation on her country? For a brief pathetic moment, Ms al-Azari's face spoke volumes. Fear, incomprehension and panic swept through her. Her lips quivered, she gulped.

"It's frightening, the Americans still want to attack us? Why?" she asked. Sealed off from international media by their Government, which bans the use of satellite dishes and employs an army of spies to watch for anyone listening to foreign radio stations, Iraqis rely on official statements and interminable Baath party proclamations



Saddam's censored press gave his people no idea how close they were to an air attack, writes Sam Kiley in Baghdad

as their only source of information. They were led to believe that Saddam had won a moral victory over the US. They were not told that he had capitulated at the eleventh hour, offering to allow UN arms inspectors back into his country.

In the al-Senaar Stadium

for "Baghdad Day", while soldiers including bagpipers in British-style uniforms gave drilling displays, two elderly sheikhs, leaders of Bedouin tribes, agreed with Ms al-Azari.

"We are behind Saddam Hussein. Our tribe, our sons,

we are all with him. The Americans just want to take our oil and are afraid of how powerful we could become," said Najir Hamid Abbas al-Taji.

Throughout Iraq's capital of 4.5 million people, there was a sense of ennui for the endless crises forced on Iraqis, in their view, by an overweening and arrogant America, and despair that they could once again fall victim to attacks launched from thousands of miles away. But there was no sense of fear. "If they bomb, they bomb," said Khaled, who was selling smuggled cigarettes.

Newspaper front pages carried the text of Saddam's letter to Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-General. *Al-Thawra*, the Baath party newspaper, said "the leadership's decision pulled the carpet out from under the American Administration, which continues to present misleading information about Iraq... and hunts continuously for opportunities to start an aggression".

Babil, which is published by Saddam's son Uday, said the American threats of a military strike were "a cruel joke". Ahlam Abda Rida, a retired headmistress, swelled with pride. "Saddam Hussein is more intelligent than the Americans. He has won again," she boasted.



Iraqi soldiers waiting to take part in a military parade in the al-Senaar Stadium to celebrate Baghdad Day



Richard Butler, head of the weapons inspection team, with Nizar Hamdoon, Iraq's Ambassador to the United Nations, as the crisis was defused in New York

Flawed review proposal emboldened Saddam

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

UNITED NATIONS

AN ILL-DEFINED United Nations proposal known as the "comprehensive review", once derided as an "idea scribbled on the back of an envelope", has emerged as the crux of Iraq's dispute with the Security Council.

The plan for a rethink of the UN's Iraq policy was floated originally by Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary-General, after President Saddam Hussein renegeed in August on his agreement to allow access to UN weapons inspectors.

Iraq's friends on the Security Council — Russia, China and France — seized on Mr Annan's proposal as a means of curtailing the weapons inspections and lifting sanctions. With their backing, Mr Annan drafted a detailed version of his plan that rewrote the rules for the lifting of the oil embargo in Iraq's favour.

Instead of UN inspectors having to certify Iraq free of weapons of mass destruction, for instance, the Security Council would consider whether the country continued to pose a threat to its neighbours — allowing for the possibility that Iraq would retain some banned arms.

Faced with the prospect of rewarding Iraq for flouting UN demands, the British and Americans balked at Mr Annan's proposal and got the Security Council to firm it up. Although still offering a comprehensive review, the council's version played down the possibility of easing sanctions.

More importantly, the US blocked a reference to the key UN provision — paragraph 22 of Resolution 687 — that ties the lifting of the oil embargo to Iraq's compliance with UN weapons inspections. Unlike

other council members, Washington insists that the oil embargo can be lifted only after Iraq has also satisfied other UN demands, such as accounting for missing Kuwaitis. Washington's hard-line position made it into the Security Council's proposal, dashing Iraq's hopes of an early end to sanctions and provoking it to break entirely with the UN weapons inspectors on October 31.

The row over the contents of the "comprehensive review" continues, and may be the trigger for further confrontations. In accepting the return of UN inspectors on Saturday, Iraq attacked a nine-point annex repeating its demands about the "comprehensive review".

Russia, France and China all broadly favour Iraq's approach, as does Mr Annan. But it is still resisted staunchly by the British and, particularly, the Americans.

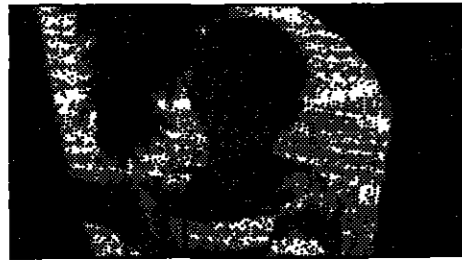
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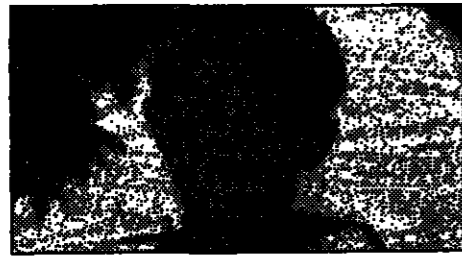
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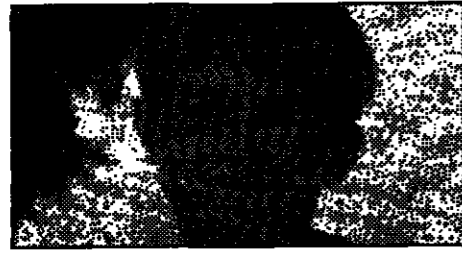
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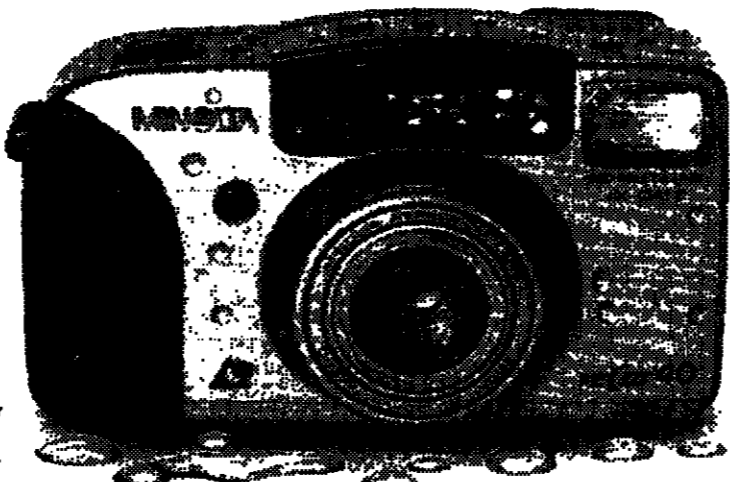
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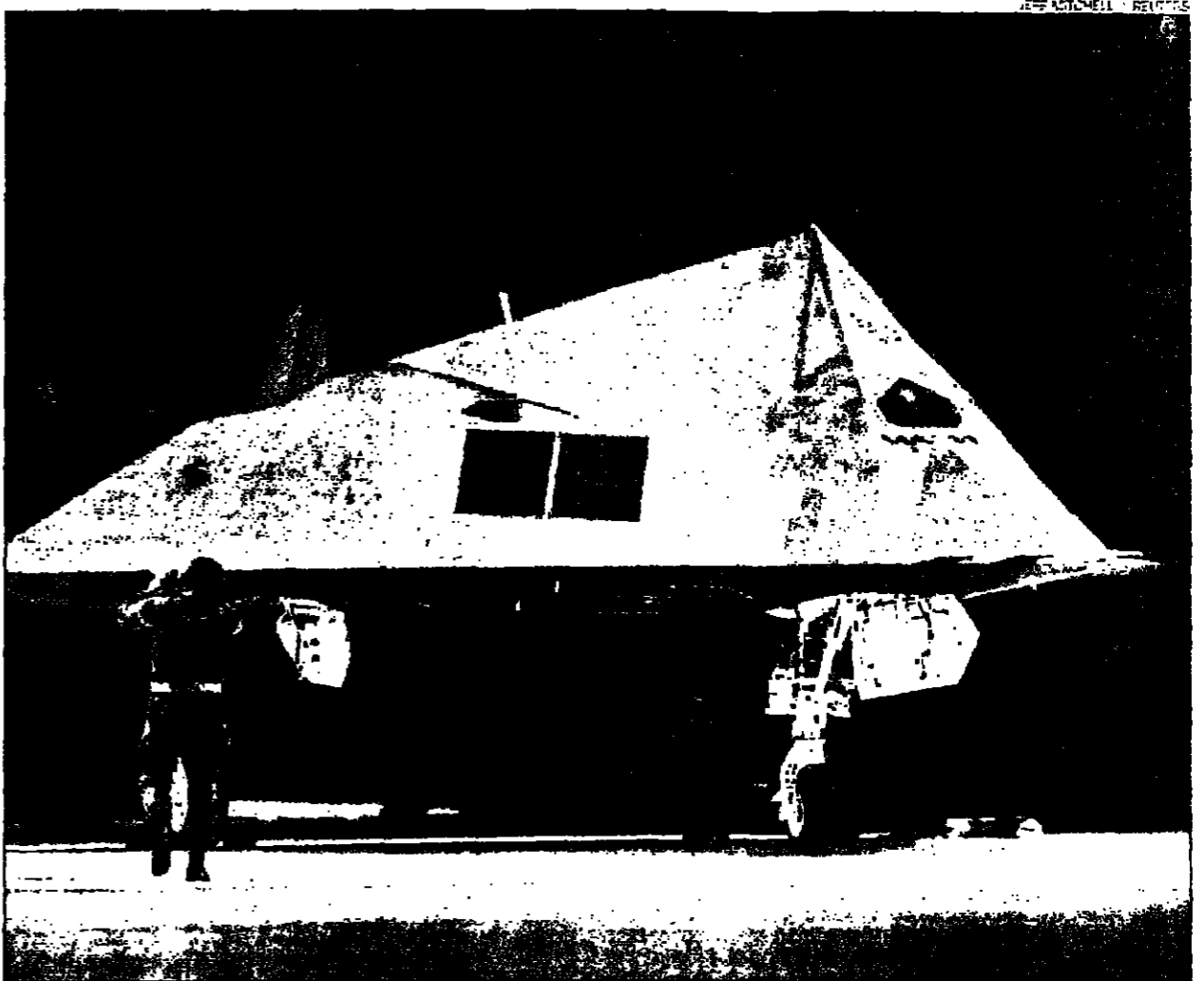
THE United States has never come so close to launching a bombing campaign. The commanding officers of the B52s on their way to Iraq were within half an hour of firing their 300-mile range air-launched cruise missiles on Baghdad when the coded "abort" message was signalled via satellite from US Central Command headquarters in Tampa, Florida.

US bombers were already over Saudi Arabia when they received the coded signal to abandon their deadly mission, writes Michael Evans, Defence Editor

The President of the United States can reverse an executive order authorising a missile launch by ordering a coded signal to be sent to all the aircraft involved in an operation. For the mission to be aborted, each commanding officer on board the B52s would have had to authenticate the abort signal by checking the code before sending back a reply. Paul Beaver of Jane's Information Group, said yesterday.

Under the first-phase strike plan, the B52 air-launched cruise missiles would have been followed by a wave of Tomahawk missiles fired from eight US Navy warships in the Gulf, including one nuclear-powered submarine. The order in which the missiles were to be launched proved to be highly significant. B52s can be turned back, but Tomahawks, once fired, cannot change course.

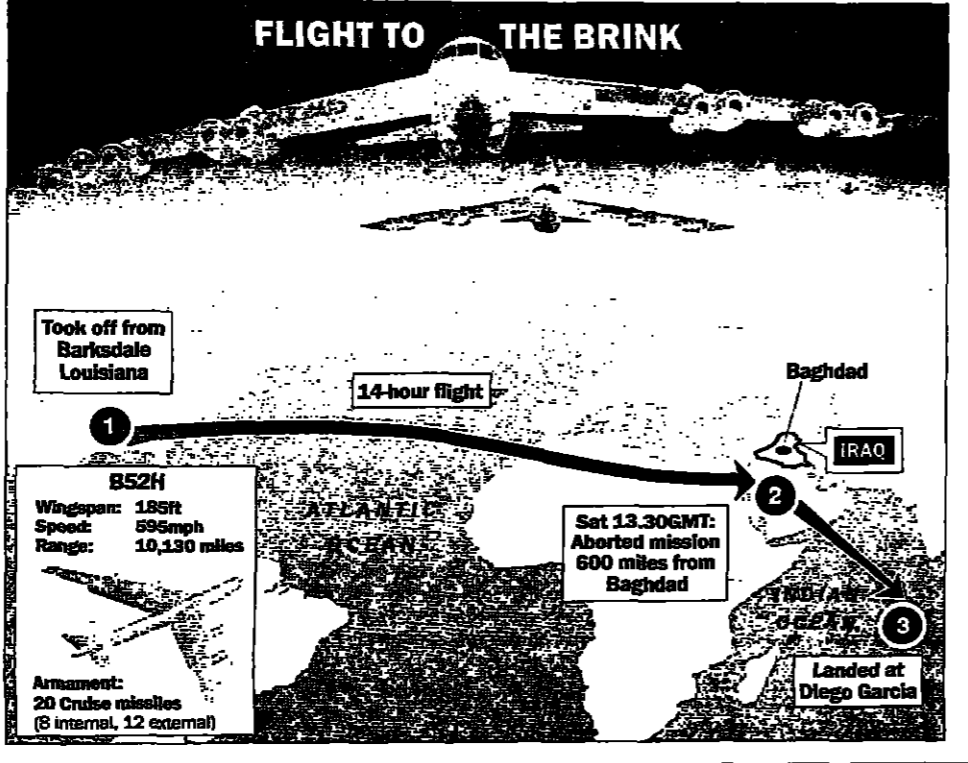
similar number of F16s from Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina, also took off for the Gulf. Two RC135 reconnaissance and electronic warfare aircraft left Offutt Air Force Base in Omaha, Nebraska. They were followed by F117 Stealth fighters and support aircraft from bases around the country. The decision had been taken to use US bases and not to seek permission to launch American aircraft from their locations in Saudi Arabia to avoid placing the Saudi Government in an embarrassing position.



An F117 Stealth fighter rolls out of a hangar at Holloman Air Force base in New Mexico yesterday to begin the journey to the Gulf. It was one of many attack aircraft which took off from bases across the US

New proposal and Saddam

Mr Blair studied the targeting plan which had been sent from Washington and gave authorisation to General Guthrie for British forces to be involved in the military action. The order was subsequently signalled to the RAF detachment in Kuwait for the 12 Tornado GR1s to participate in the airstrikes. The Tornados were armed with Paveway III guided missiles for bombing



Scepticism greets talk of new deal

THE right-wing Israeli Government yesterday welcomed signs that a military strike against Iraq had been temporarily averted and that UN weapons inspectors would soon resume work. But Israeli newspapers argued that there would be no lasting solution to the recurring Gulf crises until Saddam Hussein had been removed. "Obviously everyone wants a resolution without bloodshed," said David Bar-Ilan, spokesman for Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister. He hoped that the UN inspectors would be able to prevent the Iraqi dictator from acquiring ballistic missiles with non-conventional warheads. "What is important now is for the inspection to proceed, so that the region will be safe from non-conventional weapons and the means of their delivery," Mr Bar-Ilan added. Senior Israeli defence officials also stressed the importance of returning the inspectors to work as quickly as possible as it is believed here that no other means can prove so effective in restraining the development of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons for which Israel would be the primary target. "The state of Israel supports the US efforts to ensure significant inspection by UNSCOM and Israel supports any steps the US takes in this matter," said Avi Benayahu, spokesman for Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai.

'Saddam had got the message or had managed to read the signs'

On Wednesday, Mr Blair had detailed discussions on the telephone about the targeting policy, and following a meeting with George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, and General Sir Charles Guthrie, the Chief of the Defence Staff, John Morris QC, the Attorney-General, was asked to examine the targets to ensure they were not in breach of international law. The Prime Minister's spokesman said that on Thursday Mr Blair studied the targeting plan which had been sent from Washington and gave authorisation to General Guthrie for British forces to be involved in the military action. The order was subsequently signalled to the RAF detachment in Kuwait for the 12 Tornado GR1s to participate in the airstrikes. The Tornados were armed with Paveway III guided missiles for bombing

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Lucky to escape injustice of death row

FROM IAN BRODIE IN CHICAGO

TWENTY-SEVEN men and two women, once destined to take their final steps on death row, have denounced the states that tried to kill them. They were among 75 Americans — all innocent of the crimes for which they were condemned — who have been freed since capital punishment was reinstated in 1976. Many came within hours of execution before the verdict was reversed. Their parade was a flesh-and-blood indictment of the erratic and frequently unjust application of the death penalty in America. It was the climax of an unprecedented conference here that exposed as broken the legal machinery of death. The former victims,

mostly middle-aged, described their ordeals. Each told how long they had spent on death row — from ten months to 21 years. Each placed a sunflower in a vase to symbolise a life regained. Each intoned: "If the state had gotten its way, I would be dead today." Sonia Jacobs, sentenced for the murder of two police officers, sobbed: "My daughter's father was not as lucky as I was. By the time our innocence was established, Florida had executed him." Greeted by thunderous applause, the former death row inmates hugged and raised their arms in triumph. One said: "We've become a family, speaking out to stop executions in America." The conference drew 1,200



Former death row inmates, all of whom had convictions overturned before it was too late, on stage at the Wrongful Convictions and the Death Penalty conference in Chicago

lawyers, investigators and activists to Northwestern University. They agreed to launch an "Innocence Network" among law schools to find ways to minimise the risk of wrongful convictions. They will face scepticism from prosecutors and judges. Polls show that 70 per cent of Americans support the death penalty. The conservative Washington Legal Foundation mocked the conference as a publicity stunt. Nor were the freed victims all saints: they included men with prior criminal records. The gathering did, however, identify recurring reasons for wrongful convictions. Corrupt police extract false confessions

and fabricate evidence. Prosecutors rely heavily on "jailhouse snitches" — inmates who win leniency by falsely claiming that the defendant had owned up. Inept legal-aid lawyers are responsible for

the real killers are still on the loose. Indeed, a seven-year-old girl was murdered while Roberto Cruz and Alejandro Hernandez spent ten years on death row for the rape and murder of a ten-year-old. They were cleared by DNA tests and a police officer's admission that he lied under oath. Dennis Williams and Verne Jernigan were on death row for 18 years for the murder of a Chicago couple. Journalism students established their innocence through DNA tests. Joseph Green Brown, who came within 13 hours of execution, said: "I can't tell you what it's like to have a gentleman put a tape measure

around your chest, your waist and the inseam of your legs. He's measuring you for your burial suit." America has 3,517 people awaiting execution, the most yet. The numbers point strongly to racial bias — 47 per cent are white, the rest are minorities. There have been 486 executions since 1976. For every seven of those, one other death row prisoner has been set free. Willie Enoch, convicted of murdering a woman 15 years ago, hopes the publicity will help him. Today, his lawyers will plead with Jim Edgar, the Illinois Governor, to intervene before his date with death — on Wednesday.

"The worst thing is knowing the real killers are still on the loose"



Jaturon Siripongs: to die in California tomorrow

Disease threat to prolong hurricane misery

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

YOUNG children are increasingly falling victim to infections in the aftermath of Hurricane Mitch, the Honduran Government said yesterday, amid growing fears of epidemics in Central America. The large quantities of stagnant water left by the disastrous floods provided ideal breeding grounds for malaria-carrying mosquitoes, said Marco Rosa, the Health Minister. He said that in the slums around Tegucigalpa alone, about 50,000 children were exposed to malaria and many more were threatened across

the country. He said children were the most threatened by potential epidemics and were increasingly falling victim to infections. The main threat in the capital is a large lake that has formed as a result of flood waters, which aid teams have not been able to drain. The minister said a fumigation campaign was planned. Health authorities in Honduras and Nicaragua, the countries worst hit by the hurricane, and consequent floods and landslides, were on full alert amid growing fears that



stagnant water and a lack of adequate sanitation could trigger epidemics. Nicaragua launched a large-scale vaccination campaign yesterday, targeting

more than a million children and their mothers. Nicaragua reported four deaths and more than 40 suspected cases of leptospirosis, a bacteriological infection usually contracted by walking on damp, infected soil, or through food. There were also 31,888 cases of acute respiratory infections, 422 cases of diarrhoea and 150 cases of cholera, while Honduras recorded 858 cases of malaria, 53,617 cases of respiratory illnesses, 12,393 cases of gastro-intestinal ailments and two cases of cholera. In Guatemala at least eight people had died of cholera since Thursday and 20 others

were being treated for the disease, authorities said. President Chirac of France yesterday visited a Caribbean town devastated by the hurricane, lending support to international reconstruction efforts in Central America after telling Guatemalans "I bow before your pain and your loss." "He went to Punta Mambique to visit the town there and see what French relief groups are doing in the area," said Lieutenant Olivier Poinot, logistics officer of the French navy vessel Francis Garnier, which is involved in aid work in east Guatemala.

Some 1,400 members of the French military are helping with relief efforts in Central America, including construction crews from the Francis Garnier, who are repairing a stretch of road in the area. When he arrived in Guatemala City on Saturday night Chirac, the first French president to visit the country, said "I want to express my sympathy to the people of Guatemala." In Nicaragua, Vice President Enrique Bolanos, the 70-year-old chief of the national disaster recovery plan, was admitted to hospital suffering from exhaustion.



President Chirac expresses his sorrow for Guatemala's plight to Nobel Peace Prize winner Rigoberta Menchu

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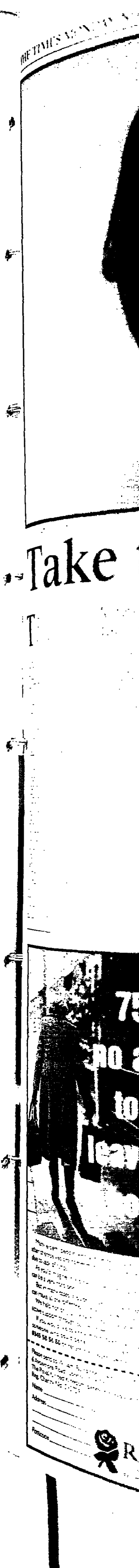
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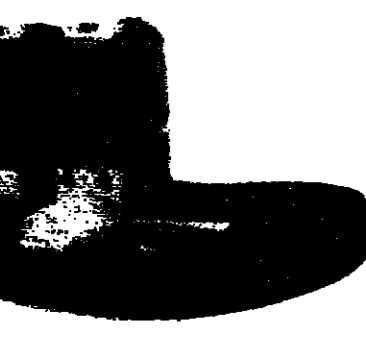


Death Penalty conference in Chicago

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As you'd imagine, the blow to their pride and independence can be a very hard one.

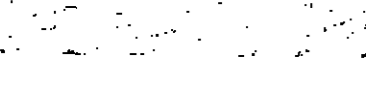
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7-75



Lina E: "People couldn't get the money to buy food. They would cry 'I need money to get sausage'. I'd be happy if they gave the rest of my money to the babushkas"

Take the roubles and run

A new generation of sassy and savvy young Russians is discovering how to beat the system. Vanora Bennett reports

The last thing Lina E. has time for is to sink into the gloomy self-reputed to affect sensitive Russian souls. She is too busy celebrating. For the wait-like 28-year-old student, who will not disclose her surname to protect her family, has pulled a series of stunts so audacious that she can scarcely believe her luck. First she played the wild markets of neo-capitalist Moscow. Then, when Russia's economy imploded this summer, she managed to spirit her £13,000 profit out of the country.

Lina's story shows the challenge that her generation of sassy, financially sophisticated twentysomethings represents to an older, more rigid top layer of officialdom. Until people like Lina came along, Russia's bosses could rely on a climate of nervous ignorance to stop questions being asked about even their most unreasonable or shady policies. Lina's battle of wits with the Russian establishment began in August, when she was working at one of Moscow's new finance houses and living in a cheap shared apartment.

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Two weeks was too far off. She decided to stop being honest. On Thursday morning she told the bank the most preposterous lie she could think of: she had to have a brain tumour removed. She and a British friend in Moscow drafted a fake invoice asking her to pay almost all her money to the friend's British bank account. "We had no hospital name. We just wrote: 'Your operation is arranged for September 26. You must pay a pre-operation fee of this much, this much for the operation and this much for post-operation treatment.'" Lina faxed the "invoice" to herself, and took the fax to the bank. A kindly woman took pity on her. She cleared a space in the crowds of customers waiting for their money so the "sick" Lina could sit down and write a personal letter to the bank chairman, pleading for special treatment.

Lina laid out the pathos: "I've waited six months for this operation, because London queues are so long. What I have in your bank is not a huge amount, but it's the amount I need to treat my illness." By the time she got home that evening, there was a sympathetic message from the bank on her answering machine. By Friday morning, when she returned to the bank, the chairman had read her letter. He was so moved by Lina's plight that he ordered his staff to transfer all her money, at once, to London. Lina's lips twitched again. "I don't know if he cried," she finishes. Some people in Britain, and anyone who genuinely had to get money out of Russia for a life-threatening brain operation, might think this brazen. But in Russia, coping with the bizarre laws and on-the-make bosses quickly turns even the most moralistic expatriate into a subverter of authority as crafty as any Muscovite.

Lina's generation is nothing like the mobsters who made the first big money in Russia in the early 1990s and spent it on gold, guns and fast cars. Her Moscow friends are a sophisticated, articulate mix of Russian and Western bankers, economists, analysts and entrepreneurs. The techno-finance whiz-kids who have flourished since 1996 earn well, take risks and play hard — but they also plan time out for business school, and are as likely to spend an evening at an experimental opera performance as in a nightclub. Like other Russians, these kids believe the rich elite that runs their state is out to rob the people. Unlike the rest,

'People kept staring at the exchange rate screen'

I bet £100 I'll offend again

Can a caring approach to young offenders work? Bill Frost talks to one who doubts it

Paul Wan was drunk and high on drugs as a young man lay groaning at his feet. He stood and watched as two mates continued to beat their victim — the moaning had stopped and the teenager on the pavement was almost certainly unconscious. Paul had kicked the boy "a couple of times" after pursuing him from a burger bar where closing-time insults had been exchanged by rival bands of under-age drinkers. "But the others kept boozing him in the head until the blood came."

"After that we consult families, police, social services and education officials before devising a programme of activity for each young person referred to the project, which is voluntary. And a 'mentor' is appointed to help the young person."



Paul and Margaret Wan

Paul shows a chilling indifference to the suffering he has caused and more than a hint of bravado when he discusses the incident and his own conviction for grievous bodily harm. However, now 17, he wants to change — or he says he does. Since joining Portsmouth's Persistent Young Offender's Project he has been found a car-valuing job and is being asked to confront and defeat his own criminality. But at first he blames everyone but himself for his past behaviour.

"Being in custody was humiliating, made me really angry. The screws pick on you; there is no deterrent value in that. You go back to your old ways as soon as you come out, just to show them they haven't won. At the first assessment, the project leader, Rhona Lucas, a veteran social worker, asks the teenager to catalogue his life of crime. The depressingly long list includes drug use, underage drinking, common assault, theft from motor vehicles, shoplifting and more. "He is a lovely lad really," says Mrs Lucas while Paul is out of the room. "It's hard to believe there is another side. We are never going to stop some people committing crimes but we will try to make them examine what is behind their pattern of offending. Many are fed up with being in custody."

son's descent into petty crime. While still a child, Paul twice sought out his mother. Both meetings proved painful and he returned to Margaret emotionally damaged and angry. "I am concerned that he will get back into the wrong company. The project is well intentioned, but teenagers like Paul need discipline," she says. Mrs Lucas understands that many of those who look after young offenders and most of the victims of their crimes favour punishment over counselling. But she believes that love and understanding are better options than incarceration and institutionalised brutality. "We are not talking about the educationally sub-normal. Most of those involved in the project are bright but have little or no self-esteem. We must harness their intelligence. You can turn young offenders into decent young people." Paul is less sure: "I bet £100 I'll be in trouble before the year is out. In a funny way, I reckon tougher punishments for young people would work better than counselling. People like us just see that as a sign of weakness, an easy option."



75 is no age to be leaving home.

Many elderly people who are perfectly capable of looking after themselves are sometimes forced to leave their homes due to lack of funds.

As you'd imagine, the blow to their pride and independence can be a very hard one.

But in many cases, a quite modest supplement to their income can make all the difference, which is where Rukba comes in.

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Wearing what comes naturally



New fabrics have made eco-clothes sophisticated and covetable

Every so often the fashion world has its little flirtations with hemp, organically grown cotton and mink (on the basis that it's "natural"). And sooner or later an earnest-eyed designer wafts up from a macrobiotic farm in Wales with interesting-looking dresses made from yak hair, and fingers stained aubergine from clever ways with vegetable dyes.

And then, partly because these clothes are never what anyone wants to wear, everyone goes back to PVC, industrial-strength bleach and devoting themselves to looking chic. The truth is that any industry predicated on constant change is as suitable a companion for eco-awareness as Emma Noble would be for, well, James Major.

But that does not stop the fashion world from wishing that it could do better, especially now that eco-warriors are mainstream heroes with a definable, if not conventionally groomed, glamour. This winter there is a very wistful, rural air to some of the boho clothes around.

Wools are boiled (a process that makes them much sleeker and nicer than you might imagine);

coats are unlined for that just-run-up-at-home look; jumpers have that loose-weave, knitted-by-candlelight feel to them. Some even have environmental credentials that go beyond the superficial. Conscious Earthwear, for instance, is a company that began as a hobby for Sarah Ratty, a graduate of Bristol Polytechnic, in 1991. Her original ambition was to use only fabrics that had been recycled, but when that proved impractical, she adopted a more realistic, half-recycled policy.

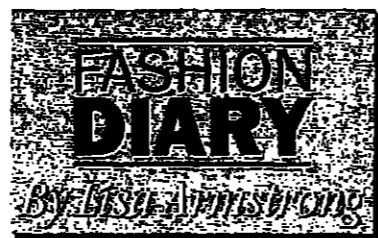
No manufacturing system can be entirely unadulterating but Ratty relies heavily on polar fleece — recycled from plastic — microfibre, and towelling, which has a green stamp of approval. She also manufactures in Britain to ensure good working conditions, and water used in the dyeing process is re-used instead of being released. Refreshingly, the clothes don't follow the ersatz rustic route, either. The best that can be said of Conscious Earthwear's clothes is that they are covetable — without that, no amount of organic vegetable dye is going to make eco-style more than another fleeting marketing buzzword.



Why can't the British get real?

TODD OLDHAM, who has just stopped his catwalk shows to concentrate on his jeans line because "it's real — it means something to people", is the latest in a long line of designers waking up to the joys of "real" clothes.

The problem is that doing "real" clothes well is one of the hardest tricks of all — as Marks & Spencer's recent less-than-scintillating showing proves. The perfect jumper in the right shade, with the season's boat or turtle neck; a T-shirt that's not too fitted; a skirt that looks different enough from all your other skirts to be interesting but not too gimmicky — these are the heroes of fashion and something that Britain, for all its brilliant high street merchandise, can't seem to get right at a mid-price level. APC, a French label, can do it, but has one shop in London. American companies can do it with their eyes closed, but the ones I'm thinking of don't have any stores here — yet. The pity is that two years ago, M&S was making headway, although the best pieces — one particular grey cashmere "Prada-inspired" coat sold out in days



— only ever went into a few flagship stores. Then M&S seemed to get cold feet. Perhaps there's still a deep-rooted puritanism running through Britain's biggest clothing companies — a belief that the British can't take fashion on board unless it's very cheap or ridiculously expensive. The evidence seems to suggest the contrary: more and more women consider well-designed, affordable clothes a necessity, not a frivolity.

Until this message gets through to British companies, the best course of action is to order online from J. Crew (www.jcrew.com), which also posts weekly clearance sales each Friday with items at 10 to 30 per cent off, or call Banana Republic (001-888 906 2800 any time) for a copy of its catalogue. Failing that, catch a plane to New York, where both these sterling companies have several large branches.

■ GIVEN a recent survey showing that people spend 70 per cent of their stay in hotel rooms washing and preening, my own litmus test for a hotel — are the towels big and fluffy, are the

creams and shampoos by Anouk Goutal or dingy little packets half-filled with a watery lotion that covers only half your leg/head? — might be a legitimate barometer after all. But what gets omitted from a bathroom speaks volumes, too. And so to a certain chic new hotel in downtown New York, much heralded by the glossy press, not least because the fashion and design crowds hang out there and because, apparently, it's Leonardo DiCaprio's "home from home".

Bathroom products — from FACE — were unimpeachably fashionable, but where were the showercaps? Obviously they're not what Leo would be photographed in for *Vanity Fair*, but even he must resort to one sometimes. Evidently not. "We might be able to track one down somewhere," sniffed the girl on the front desk semi-helpfully and wholly stumped — an unimaginative reaction as they're the kind of thing on which Jeremy Scott might base an entire collection. Eventually, one was located. By now it was clear that asking for a showercap in SoHo is akin to requesting a porn mag in a convent. Heaven knows what essentials might be outlawed next by the hotel style police. The time has come for our greatest design minds to concentrate on improving the showercap. Galliano and McQueen, your country's hairdos need you.



From left: body warmer, £100, by Conscious Earthwear, from Urban Outfitters (0171-252 4802), turtleneck, £69.99, and skirt, £59.99, by Morgan (0171-383 2688); dress, £200, and duffel coat, £350, by Saltwater, from Browns (0181-874 0211), boots, £265, by Gina (0171-235 2933); jumper, £39.99, by Selsey, top, £40, by Base Elements (0171-287 6767), trousers, £45, by Benetton, mules, £275, by Gina Couture (0171-235 2932); sweater, £169, skirt, £149, by Nicole Farhi (0171-499 8388). Photographer: LUCY FITTER; Stylist: Nicola Goldie; Hair: Raphael Soley at Michaeljohn Management using Yum Yum products (01702 435904); Make-up: Jochen Fuchs at Michaeljohn Management using Ruby & Millie; Model: Indriaty at Select

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BIANT, AL AND RDINARY... TO THRILL AND IMAGINATION ART SOAR

Rebel with a new cause

Designer and former leftwinger Katharine Hamnett explains why she has joined the Conservative Party. Interview by Fashion Editor Lisa Armstrong

She speaks in gently modulated Cheltenham Ladies' College tones that never fail to surprise, not least perhaps, because her views in print always seem so vehement. "I am amazed at the reaction to that article I wrote about the euro," Katharine Hamnett says mildly. "It was just a little piece."

Is she serious? Last week's "little piece" appeared, after all, in a national broadsheet. But that's the thing about Hamnett: now 51, she is so adept at generating publicity that she doesn't seem to be aware she is doing it. This is the woman who famously wore a T-shirt emblazoned with "58 per cent don't want Pershing" to shake hands with Margaret Thatcher at Downing Street in 1984. The picture went global — and so did Hamnett's company.

"I didn't think about marketing the T-shirts at the time," she says. "I just wanted a slogan that would show up well on 35mm film." But marketed it was — and so widely copied that pirate versions of it turned up everywhere from Southall to Saigon, many of them of the badly printed, Save-the-Waves-and-other-impenetrable-philosophical-slogans variety. In the process, the legend of Hamnett the fashion rebel, feminist, staunch leftwinger, Greenham Common supporter took flight, although she now accepts that "superior weapons have kept the peace". And now, hand in hand with her protest against the euro, comes the news that, in order to have a say in the Conservatives' poll on the euro, she has joined the Tory party — which is probably as maverick as you can get these days.

The wonder is that she ever voted Labour — which she unfailingly did, apart from the time she put a tick in the Green box — in the first place. Her father was a defence attaché whose diplomatic career took the family to a succession of sumptuous residences across Scandinavia and the Balkans. In Stockholm they lived in Strindberg's old house, which, the adult Hamnett was surprised to find, was replicated on the West End stage in one of his plays. Her mother had the well-heeled cosmopolitan's passion for

fashion ("she and my grandmother really understood the potency of clothes") and an abiding fear of communism. She once rang her daughter at school to suggest that she skip the yoga classes. "They might have communist associations, you see."

Two of Hamnett's uncles were pilots who were killed in the war, one over Dresden, "and they didn't die so that 50 years later we would hand our sovereignty over to Germany, which is what will happen if we sign up to the euro". The family enjoyed lively discussions around the dinner table about politics, in which Fears About The Welfare State loomed large. Asked to elucidate, she says: "People have to take responsibility for themselves. They can't expect the State to do everything for them. Welfare can make people lazy."

That doesn't sound very left-wing, I say dubiously. "No, scary isn't it? But I think I was always more left of centre than left-wing."

She is too intelligent — and too chastened by the press, which over the years has gradually slotted her into a pigeonhole marked Loopy — not to acknowledge the contradictions of her position. "For years they said I was a hypocrite because I was a vegetarian who sold leather jackets. Well, that was crap for a start because I was never vegetarian." She was so incensed about China's humanitarian record, especially in Tibet and Taiwan, that she wrote to Robin Cook. His reply, which referred to One China and which she found "abhorrent", was instrumental in her not voting in the last election. "I travel a lot and I just couldn't stand everyone thinking that he and Tony Blair represented my views."

And yet as the independent head of a business that sells £100 million worth of clothes and products worldwide, she does business with China, in Hong Kong. "And that's another thing I got very upset about — the handover," she says.

"But no, I haven't stopped selling to those three shops in China... I realised that my unilateral sanctions probably weren't going to influence the Chinese Government." On the other hand, the company does not use cheap labour (although she hasn't visited all her factories) or PVC, the production of which, she says, emits huge amounts of dioxins into the atmosphere. "Just tell me it lowers the sperm count; that always gets them."

She is not loopy, then, but definitely what an encouraging teacher at a very liberal school might call "independently spirited". (I once sat next to her in a restaurant as she tried to set fire with her cigarette to a man wearing shorts on the ground that he'd committed heinous crimes against style.) As a member of the design establishment, it would have been easy for her to have a voice within one of the new Government's "on-side" committees, but she was honest enough not to.

"I think a lot of the people who did get involved now deeply regret it," she says. She is affronted by suggestions that she must thrive on wearing shorts on the ground that he'd committed heinous crimes against style.) As a member of the design establishment, it would have been easy for her to have a voice within one of the new Government's "on-side" committees, but she was honest enough not to.

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I didn't set out to be a boss, it just happened



"You can adopt any image you want through clothes. They make you happy, confident, sexy... powerful," says the designer, above

can see the artillery lining up against her. Unless someone one day manages to prove that Coco Chanel's affair with a Nazi officer was a fiendishly clever ploy to subvert from within, fashion designers will never be renowned for their political acuity. Still, Hamnett argues that designers pay taxes and, like everyone else, deserve a say. "Anyway, I'm not speaking out as a fashion designer or as a businesswoman, but as someone who's concerned about the threats the EU poses to democracy. I don't want to embarrass the Tories, but someone

has to speak out because there is no opposition to this Government." Is she bored with fashion, then? "No. Does it look as though I am?" she asks defensively. For someone who was so influential in the 1980s — using fabrics such as parachute silk and lightly padded cottons and satins to make sexy, comfortable, hip clothes — she seems to have coasted for a while. She hasn't had a show for a year. "That was because of the doggy license," she says. "We are showing in London next February." And she still loves it. "Not the rapid change for change's sake side

of it, but the power it has to affect how people feel. You can adopt any image you want through clothes. They can make you happy, confident, sexy... powerful. I'm not interested in the fantastical, really expensive clothes any more — well, maybe the odd thing — but stuff people actually wear." Almost certainly this will include No To Euro T-shirt-sand, yes, she says, pre-empting any howls of derision from her critics, profits will, as with the Pershing T-shirts, go to charity. "Did you know that in Ancient Greek taste and wisdom are the same word?"

What does that tell you about the importance of image?" And what does it tell you about her energy and enthusiasm that after nearly 30 years in the business, she still believes in the transformative power of fashion? "I never set out to be a boss," she says, musing on the possibility of an alternative career. "It just happened. I didn't plan to have a global business, but it was grow or watch it all shrink. Anyway, compared with other worlds — the nuclear industry or politics — the fashion business is really rather sweet."

INS Beware, danger upfront

OUTS

IF TRIUMPH'S new billboard results in car crashes, the cause will be Kelly Brook, pretender to the bra-girl throne. Measuring 30E, she also has the perfect face to promote Flaunt, a new bra collection of structurally sound yet pretty bras that are available

only in DD, E and F cups. Triumph has spent the past two years creating the Flaunt range in response to figures that one in ten British women is a DD or above. Between £25 and £30, available from department stores (01793 720232).

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Special events include Lisa Armstrong, *The Times* Fashion Editor, making fashion presentations at 1pm, 2pm and 3pm. The top ten Christmas gift selections from Lisa Grainger, the *Weekend* shopping editor, will be on show, and Jayne Dowle, the editor of *Metro*, will help with Christmas books from 4 to 5pm. The event is free, but to make a donation call Great Ormond Street on 0171-916 5678. The offers are redeemable only with a *Times* invitation. Send an s.a.c. to: *The Times*/Liberty Christ-

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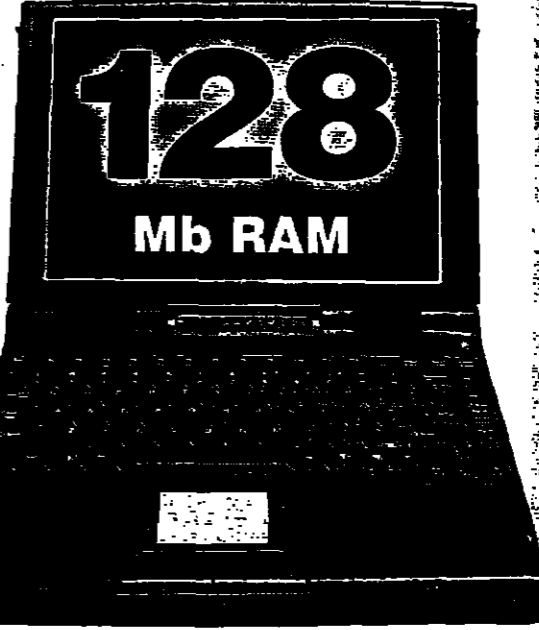
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Bonney storms
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FACING PAGE



Still doing it his way

Music, like everything else, goes in cycles. Tony Bennett is the epitome of good taste today; colour supplements want him on their covers, and he makes bestselling albums with titles such as *The Art of Excellence*.

But life was not so sweet 30 years ago. No longer big box-office at Columbia Records, Bennett had been eclipsed by Simon & Garfunkel and Janis Joplin. Executives were pressuring him to put his classic repertoire to one side and try his hand at contemporary pop songs. At one point, as he recalls in his newly published autobiography, he turned to his old partner Count Basie for advice. As laconic a conversationalist as he was a pianist, Basie offered the simplest of replies: "Why change an apple?"

The title of Bennett's book, *The Good Life*, tells you all you need to know about the professional rebirth he has enjoyed over the past decade. But the good life is not just measured in Grammy Awards or the spectacular view from his luxury apartment on the edge of Central Park. Bennett's prime achievement is to have fought his way back to the top of the pile without compromising his values.

The autobiography is like the man himself: discreet, modest and undemonstrative. The singer, christened Antonio Benedetto 72 years ago, tells his story with the minimum of melodramatics. Although he has presumably seen enough of the squalid aspects of the Las Vegas industry, the narrative prefers the sunny side of the street. Even a debilitating flirtation with cocaine in the 1970s is described in markedly down-to-earth terms.

He still tours constantly, regularly playing some 200 concerts a year, and has attained a measure of inner contentment. "I've run into a few no-no's in my life but I've finally reached the age where you realise that, hey, life is OK," he says. "It's just the middle that gets messed up."

Frank Sinatra's theme tune is more suited to Tony Bennett, says Clive Davis



Tony Bennett: "I've run into a few no-no's in my life"

What still agitates him, though, is what he sees as the self-destructive greed of the modern recording industry. New talent, he says, is seldom allowed time to flourish. The inevitable result is a drop in standards. "When I started the record company said: 'Here's a diamond in the rough, let's keep him for two to three years. It was wonderful — it allowed me to experiment until I'd found myself.'"

"Today, acts have to come in with a finished product. Then the management will give them the hoof if it doesn't work out. And if it does sell, it's likely to be a false success. You have to be bigger than the Beatles, and in six months you are forgotten. So you end up with a castle in Spain: what are you going to do? Look at the wall?"

At the end of the 1960s Bennett found himself locked in a battle of wits with Columbia's new head, Clive Davis (who was later to found the Arista la-

bel and strike gold with the andyne Whitney Houston). Urged to make a more commercial pop-oriented disc, Bennett was so torn by guilt at selling out that he threw up before the first studio session. He left the label in 1971, finally making a triumphant return 14 years later with the help of a shrewd new manager, his son Darryl. We all know what happened after that.

The point, though, is not that Bennett was benefiting from some kitsch revival. All the albums he has made since his comeback have been founded on first-class musicianship.

It is striking that whereas Bennett's close friend, Frank Sinatra, invariably relied on orchestral arrangements, Bennett has long been drawn to the looser, riskier format of a trio or quartet, especially in concert. Bennett explains the contrast in generational terms. "Sinatra grew up in the big band era. I came of age after the war, when for many reasons — mainly economic — it was impossible to keep the bands going. To me, jazz is the most exciting music in the world, so I was attracted to the spontaneity of a small group. It's so functional, too. Instead of having long rehearsals with an orchestra when you're touring, you can improvise."

Bennett's greatest love, apart from music, is painting. *The Good Life* is lavishly illustrated with his landscapes, still lifes and portraits. He has a studio at his home, and the first thing you see inside the door of his apartment is a large photo-collage portrait of him created by his pal, David Hockney. "Painting is like a psychiatrist's couch for me," he says. "There's no boardroom, no meetings. It teaches you the importance of concentration, and it kicks out laziness. Discipline ends up being your best friend."

● *The Good Life* is published by Simon & Schuster. A new album, *The Essential Tony Bennett*, is released by Columbia



Brought to book: some of the 54 dancers who perform Stephan Koplowitz's library work

Fine set of library steps

Dance Umbrella wanted something special for its 20th birthday festival so it turned to Stephan Koplowitz, the American who has built a career out of making monumental dances in the unlikelyst of places. Eleven years ago he created *Fenestrations* in the middle of New York's audacious Grand Central Station. Two years ago he created *Genesis Canyon* in the magnificent entrance hall of London's Natural History Museum. Last week he returned to London to give Dance Umbrella something special: *Babel Index*, custom-built to be performed inside the new British Library.

Koplowitz's choice of venue could not be more impressive. Sir Colin St John Wilson's building, opened in June, is spectacularly beautiful on the inside, an uplifting vista of sleek white lines and exhilarating perspectives. And for this production, it was radiantly lit by Simon Corder.

Books and learning is the theme of *Babel Index*. The 54 dancers read books, share books and experiment with the new ideas they find on the written page. The original electronic score is by Jonathan Stone, a soothing burble of sound that lulls the audience into a church-like reverence.

Babel Index is divided into three sections and the audience, herded into groups with tour guides, is required to walk around the building to see different dances in different locations. The first section features two casts of 12 dancers performing the same regi-

DANCE
Babel Index
Stephan Koplowitz

mented choreography on two levels behind the King's Library. The choreography here is meant to be seen from above — unfortunately my group hit it on the level, so I never did see the letters of the alphabet which the dancers were forming with their rolling bodies. In *Babel Index* no two people see the same thing, and no one person sees it all.

In section two, groups of dancers are scattered over three levels, animating vestibules, staircases and towers. The finale should be Koplowitz's grand statement, and up until the last minute it is. Here all the dancers, clutching books, join together for a march of empowerment along the library's three long tiers. With the audience regrouped below in the entrance hall it is an exact reversal of the traditional theatrical experience: the audience at stage level, looking up into the best seats in the house.

The choreography is really humming at this point, with the ensemble stretched along the architecture like bits of the building come to life. But Koplowitz allows all this energy to peter away at the end in a whimper that deflates the high spirits. It is the one miscalculation in an inspired evening.

DEBRA CRAINE

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SPECIAL EVENTS: Lisa Armstrong, Times fashion editor, will make three fashion presentations at 1pm, 2pm and 3pm. Lisa Grainger, Times Weekend shopping editor's top ten Christmas gift selection will be on show. Jayne Dowle, editor of metro, will be at Liberty between 4pm-5pm to help you to choose Christmas books.

The event is free but if you would like to make a donation to charity, call Great Ormond Street Donation telephone line: 0171-916 5678, or send a cheque, made payable to Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity, to: Great Ormond Street Fundraising Dept, 40-41 Queen Square, London WC1N 3AJ.

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LIBERTY

CHANGING TIMES

LAST month we saw Bonnie Raitt supporting Eric Clapton on his Earls Court dates. She played a workmanlike 40-minute set, but it was not her audience and the cavernous hall locked atmosphere. Out on her own at the Shepherd's Bush Empire, this was her crowd, her sort of place and her night. With a four-piece band and assorted friends, she played an hour-and-a-half's driving rhythm and blues sprinkled with a few ballads, a touch of jazz and a little country — and then came back for another 30 minutes which still left them wanting more.

At 48 Raitt is singing and playing better than ever. Much of the material was drawn from her recent album *Fundamental*, although she

Crowd pleaser

Celtic roots (she appears on the next Chieftains album) and she brought on Phil Cunningham on tin whistle for an exquisitely tender version of Richard Thompson's *Dimming of the Day*. Second guitarist Joe Vito was an excellent foil (they were

trading licks on slide guitars at one point) and at the end Hamish Stuart, formerly of the Average White Band, joined her for a dramatically soulful duet on *Tell It Like It Is*. Raitt closed with a sublime *Angel from Montgomery* with lovely mandolin and accordion accompaniment and some heart-breaking harmonies.

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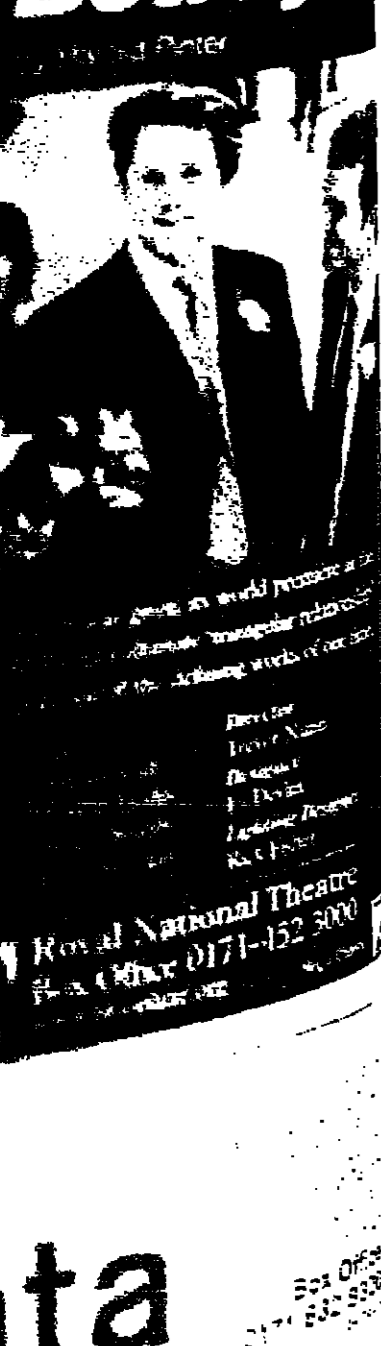
le set library teps

Babel Index British Library

...mement choreography on the... behind the Kings Li...

...More accustomed to Genet and Arthur Miller, John has never before directed a musical, and is now cutting his teeth on a Stephen Sondheim/James Lapine Broadway show from 1987 that lays bare the sometimes murderous, blighted heart of several ever-popular fairytales.

Betrayal



THEATRE: Matt Wolf meets the fabulous Crowley boys as they work together for the first time



Relative merits: Bob (in leather jacket) and John Crowley seeing double during a break in rehearsals for Into the Woods at the Donmar Warehouse

Brothers not so grim

Family ventures in the theatre are nothing new, as the clanish Three Sisters productions of recent years, starring various Redgraves and Cusacks, can attest. Far more unusual is the behind-the-scenes enterprise now at the Donmar Warehouse, where John Crowley, the theatre's artistic associate, is directing a production of the musical Into the Woods designed by none other than his older brother, Bob, the Tony Award-winning Irishman whose distinguished CV includes Amy's View, Les Liaisons Dangereuses and the Kevin Spacey Icarus Cometh.

'Into the Woods is ultimately about a sense of society'

Concert victory on quality street

If I make the unoriginal observation that big operas sound better in the concert hall than the opera house, it may seem like another swipe at Covent Garden. Not intended. Nevertheless, Saturday's thrilling concert performance of Alban Berg's harrowing masterpiece, with the Philharmonia Orchestra rampanant under Christoph von Dohnanyi's baton, did prompt the question: why bother with all the paraphernalia of staging opera, when music of this quality plays so powerfully in the theatre of the imagination?

Waking dream of radiant bliss

Whenever the Wigmore Hall celebrates it does so in style, but even by its own standards the 1998 Gala Concert featured an especially starry duo: Barbara Bonney and Vladimir Ashkenazy. She has emerged as perhaps America's finest soprano and one of the pre-eminent Lieder singers today. He, a great pianist turned conductor, was making one of his all too rare appearances at the keyboard. In equal partnership, they gave us a recital to remember.

This week in THE TIMES



DANCE

The hoofing percussion phenomenon Stomp sweeps on to the Roundhouse stage



THEATRE

The Peter Hall Co takes its final bow with Kafka's Dick starring Eric Sykes



OPERA

Simon Holt's new opera at the Huddersfield Festival stars Patricia Rozario



FILM

Car chases action thriller the old-style action thriller Ronin with Robert De Niro

THEATRES section containing various theatre listings with details on plays, venues, and ticket prices.

PLUS: Cliff Richard is in celebratory mood at the Albert Hall tomorrow

REVIEW: Thursday

REVIEW: Next week

REVIEW: Next week

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REVIEW: Thursday



THE LAST WORD

Saddam must not get another chance to cheat

Iraq's retreat has again staved off American and British air attacks, this time a mere hour before B-52s went into action over Iraq. Saddam Hussein's undertaking "to resume working with the UN Special Commission", the expert team attempting to rid Iraq of its weapons of mass destruction, will again be put to the test. Again, Saddam has bought time, weeks if not months. But the pattern is less familiar than it seems. If the Iraqi dictator assumes that he can revert to his old pattern of obstruction, there is reason to believe the British and American statements that diplomacy will not be given another chance. This latest confrontation has followed a pattern much like previous ones; but the degree of determination is now far greater, not only in Washington and London but in other capitals.

LABOUR'S BLINDSPOT

A compromise that will slowly destroy grammar schools

Britain's grammar schools, which modernisers should be defending as bastions of educational excellence, continue to be held hostage to ancient Labour prejudices. For years, Labour ideologues argued for their abolition and a fully comprehensive system. The disciples of new Labour, terrified of alienating middle-class parents, not offended by the supposedly "unfair" nature of selection, have tried to steer a middle course. The leadership's Third Way is to forbid the creation of new grammar schools, while allowing parents to vote to close existing ones. Tomorrow the House of Commons will debate the procedure under which these ballots will be held.

THE LEONID ROARS

Showers of meteorites can still herald disaster

Guy Fawkes Night was a damp squib this year. Firework parties were subdued by drizzle. But now, admirers of pyrotechnic displays may be offered a second chance. As the Earth hurtles heading into a cosmic dust storm, skygazers expect the most spectacular celestial firework display for decades.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Argentine leader's hopes for peace

From the President of the Argentine Republic
Sir, I was pleased to read General Sir Ian Gourlay's letter (October 30) in which he refers to a some one morning in 1983 at the United World College, which is attended by many Argentine students.

Livingstone's record in London

From the Director of The Institute of Economic and Political Studies
Sir, I read with wry amusement (report, November 11) that Mr Tony Blair is seeking a business figure with considerable executive experience to step forward to fill the office of the first elected mayor of London.

The future for the Prince of Wales

From Miss Sierra Hutton-Wilson
Sir, It would appear that the alleged stand-off between Prince Charles and his parents (report, November 9) derives more from differences of generation and disposition than from matters royal or constitutional, and must sound very familiar to many of their contemporaries.

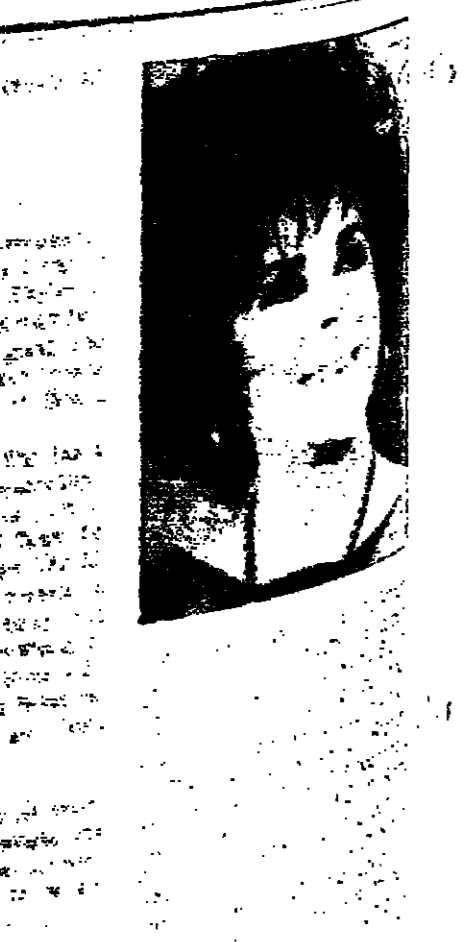
majorities. But British political... different opinions and has responsible... parliamentary democracy... spirit of liberalism does not... the present Government.
This obsession with control... comes to no good. The British political... culture is independent-minded. We... of us are very far from being... an insouciant admiration for change... as Tony Blair or... the kind of society they believe in... however, they believe in the... fundamental convictions with... the belief in democracy, in the... speech, in the right of the individual... to speak his mind. Enough Powell... the same beliefs. In this respect... Britain is still a Protestant country.
Our whole culture is based on respect... for the individual conscience, for the... Livingstone's just as much as for... Tony Blair's.

O... does not need to be a... Mandar, or a Hegelian... know that every... produces a reaction. In... One eventually led to the... of Vatican Two. Archbishop... was a reforming moderniser of... be was a control freak. He... the same beliefs. In this respect... Britain is still a Protestant country.
Our whole culture is based on respect... for the individual conscience, for the... Livingstone's just as much as for... Tony Blair's.

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Human rights

From Professor Jeffrey Jowell, QC
Sir, Claims that the Human Rights Act, which received the Royal Assent on Monday, November 9, will involve a significant transfer of power from Parliament to the judges (report, October 27; letters, October 31 and November 6) are misleading and distort the aims of the Act.

From Mr Denis Meehan
Sir, The Prime Minister "is looking for a substantial business figure with proven executive abilities to come forward as the first elected mayor of London". I am not aware that Tony Blair has had any significant business experience and yet most objective observers regard him as an excellent Prime Minister.

Children's hospices
From Mrs Heather Richardson
Sir, Your article, "Time to enjoy Harry" (Body and Mind, November 3) highlights a pressing need for a greater availability of children's hospices in the UK, particularly in deprived inner-city areas. This makes it all the more concerning that there is no children's hospice within Greater London.

Welfare reforms
From the Under Secretary of State for Social Security
Sir, Mrs Elizabeth Bray and others (letter, October 28) call for the modernisation of the therapeutic earnings concession in incapacity benefit.

Babies' passports
From Professor Alec Eden
Sir, I strongly suspect that the Home Office is wrong to believe that Blair Allan, issued with his own passport when only nine days old, thus became "the UK's youngest passport holder" (report, November 6).

End to persecution?
From Mr Arthur Oppenheimer
Sir, On the anniversary of Kristallnacht it was encouraging to note the comment by the former Chief Rabbi that Jewish communities worldwide are now free from persecution for the first time in more than 2,000 years (report, November 10).

Tribute to victims
From Mr David Burford
Sir, The family of Derek Bentley indicate that they intend to use the proceeds of any government compensation to fund a university law scholarship, possibly at Cambridge (report, later editions, November 11).

Letters to the Editor that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number - 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Feminine angels
From Mr H. H. Huxley
Sir, The new Christmas stamps, featuring angels, have been designed by a female curate formerly employed by Saatchi & Saatchi (report and photograph, November 3). All the angels pictured are indubitably feminine.

From Mr George Stern
Sir, Peter Riddell propagates a Livingstone myth in asserting that under Ken Livingstone, the GLC's "low-fares campaign was fiscally irresponsible and was eventually blocked in the courts" ("Why the Blairites must debunk this Livingstone myth", November 11).

From Mr Alfred Finer
Sir, Judging by the letters which you publish it is assumed by your correspondents (November 11) that Prince Charles and Mrs Parker Bowles wish to be married.

From Mrs Frances Judd
Sir, Just how many parties, banquets, or concerts does a 50-year-old need? Is this really a people's prince?

The missing angel
From Mr David Gould
Sir, Bearing in mind that most paintings have been cleaned on many earlier occasions, the modern trend of stripping away restoration and repainting from Old Masters should not be undertaken without careful thought.

From Mr Stephen Rosenberg
Sir, In Jewish mythology the number four stands for stability but carries unwelcome overtones of duality, while the number three has better spiritual roots. Three angels appear to Abraham (Genesis xviii, 2) and all angels (according to Isaiah vi, 2) had twice three wings. In another faith also, three Magi play a pivotal role.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE November 14: The Baroness Amos (Baroness of Wailing) called upon the Governor-General...



A yeoman warder will take visitors to the Tower of London room where Sir Thomas, below, was held before execution

Thomas More's death cell will open to public

More was a pageboy to the Archbishop of Canterbury, Cardinal Morton. It is throwing its doors open to the public for the first time since the 1951 Festival of Britain...



More was a pageboy to the Archbishop of Canterbury, Cardinal Morton...

Nature notes

The first winter duck arriving on lakes and around the coast. Goldeneyes from Finland and Russia especially like to feed where sewers discharge into the sea...



The goldeneye duck

Today's royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh, Founder and Chairman, will chair a meeting and hold a luncheon for the trustees of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association...

Birthdays today: Mr Frank Bruno, boxer, 37; Sir Alan Budd, economist, 61; Mr Willie Carson, former jockey, 50...

Royal Tank Regiment Major General R.W.M. McAfee, Colonel Commander Royal Tank Regiment, presided at the Annual Officers' Dinner of the Royal Tank Regiment...

BMDS: 0171 680 6880 PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

Forthcoming marriages

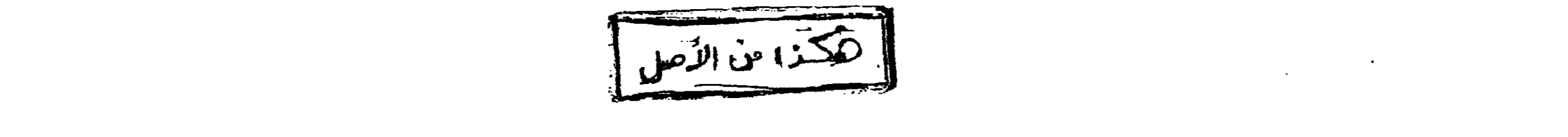
Lieutenant-Colonel M.H. Annett and Miss H.F. Anelay. The engagement is announced between Michael, only son of Mrs Frances Annett of Hamilton, Australia...

DEATHS BURR - Helen Petronella on November 12th suddenly at her home in Canada, aged 88...

DEATHS TAIT - Frances Barbara (née May) on November 12th, peacefully at Flowersdown Nursing Home, Much loved wife of Hugh and sister of the late Ruth, Funeral Service at St. Mary's Chapel...

OVERSEAS TRAVEL POLAR CHALLENGE... FLIGHTS DIRECTORY... JETWORLD... OVERSEAS EXPRESS... LEGAL NOTICES... TRUSTEE ACTS

LEGAL NOTICES DECISION MAINTENANCE... TRUSTEE ACTS... LEGAL PUBLIC... PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES... FARESAVERS



forthcoming marriages

Mr G.W. Muir and Miss S.M. MacLary... Mr G.W. Muir and Miss S.M. MacLary...

QUENTIN CREWE



Quentin Crewe in the early 1980s: undaunted by muscular dystrophy

Quentin Crewe, writer and traveller, died on November 14, his 72nd birthday. He was born on November 14, 1926.

Quentin Crewe will be remembered for his courage in overcoming the debilitating disease of muscular dystrophy to achieve... a feat that would deter many an able-bodied man...

had Jesus Christ. The family lived first in Tripoli but moved in 1928 to Palermo, where his father was Consul until going on post to Nice in 1930. They were resident in France until 1941.

Quentin was sent to school at Eton but was sacked after a year for escaping to London for the day (with the help of a fire door key he had copied). Thereafter he had private tutoring with an impoverished vicar near Henley, before going up to Trinity College, Cambridge, where he studied law and was spare cox for the university crew, before being sent down for pure indolence.

Returning to England in 1953, he was hired by John Jurek to work as a reporter for the Evening Standard. The job included a great deal of travel and a certain amount of intrusive journalism, which he found distasteful.

ing column in the Sunday Mirror, mixing highly complicated items with more obviously tabloid material. At other times he worked for Vogue, and then as a freelance contributor to The Times, The Sunday Times, The Sunday Telegraph, and The Spectator. In the early 1950s Quentin Crewe came close to marrying Lady Dorothy Macmillan's daughter, Sarah (whose father was Lord Boothby). But the relationship foundered, causing him great sorrow...

known evils. The desert claims you with a smile. I had never been so afraid. Fortunately they survived, though later a guide went mad, slitting his throat in four places, and had to be tied up. Crewe tended to his wounds. Over a period of two years in the early 1980s, he and some friends travelled the Sahara from Tunisia to Mauritania, and thence to Khartoum, Cairo and Siwa. On the trip his wheelchair went over a landmine in Mauritania. This incident he described as going up 'with the happy case of a shuttcock' and coming down, spraining 'a dreary ankle'. He accepted this as part of the business of travel, and in his later years continued to explore the continents of the world. The books he published reflected his diverse interests. A Curse of Blossom (1960) was his account of a year spent in Japan with his first wife. Frontiers of Privilege (1961) was a light-hearted account of the changing attitudes in society over a hundred years, as reflected in Queen magazine. Great Chefs of France appeared in 1973. In Search of the Sahara (1983) was an illustrated account of his trip, and was described by Wilfred Thesiger as 'an engrossing narrative of travel' and a 'characteristically unconscious tribute to the unbelievable courage and resolution of the author'. Crewe published four more books during the 1980s, showing the wide spread of his interests: his Pocket Book of Food (1980), The Last Maharaja (1985), Touch the Happy Isles (1987) and In the Realm of Gold (1989). His entertaining autobiography, Well, I Forget the Rest, was warmly received in 1991. Towards the end of his life Crewe retired to a hilltop village in the South of France, but Lloyd's losses, a broken back and increasingly frail health forced him to return to England five years ago — though he brought with him a final gastronomic delight, Foods from France (1993). His last book, published earlier this year, was Letters from India. His illness gradually consumed him, but it failed to break his spirit. All his children, apart from the son who died as an infant, survive him.

Valerie Hobson, actress and wife of the former Conservative MP John Profumo, died on November 13 aged 81. She was born in Larne, Northern Ireland, on April 14, 1917.



Valerie Hobson, photographed in 1948 before her marriage to Profumo

TEMPERED by as tough an ordeal as could befall the wife of an aristocrat, Valerie Hobson lived to see the reputation of her husband totally rehabilitated. In the wake of the claimed security scandal of 1963 both Jack Profumo and his well-known actress wife threw themselves into social work — he at Toynebee Hall in London's East End and she on behalf of mentally handicapped children and leprosy relief work abroad. No one meeting them for the first time in the London of the 1970s, 1980s or 1990s — where they remained a most popular couple — could possibly have gathered from their mutually dependent demeanour the nature of the trauma they had been through.

famous than he was. Her last part had been opposite Herbert Lorn, playing the English governess in the 1953 Drury Lane production of The King and I. But she had also had an illustrious career in films — playing particularly memorably, among many other parts, the role of Estella in David Lean's classic version of Great Expectations (1946). Valerie Babette Louise Hobson was the daughter of a naval officer, and at first she seemed destined for a career as a ballet dancer. She went to the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art at the age of nine, and studied dancing for six years with one of the leading teachers of the day, Espinosa. But when an

The adjective most often used about her screen persona was 'ladylike'. A classic beauty, with large eyes and long auburn hair, she epitomised the aloof English heroine, at a time when British films were notable for their emotional reticence. On her return to England, her career picked up with a Korda spectacular, The Drum, and a comedy, This Man is News, the producer of which, Anthony Havelock-Allan, became her first husband in 1939. There was a sequel, This Man in Paris, and in the early war years she also played in two popular spy pictures with Conrad Veidt, The Spy in Black and Contraband.

She was then absent from the screen for some time while she started a family, returning in 1946 with The Years Between followed by Great Expectations. After Blanche Fury, a Victorian melodrama with Stewart Granger, she appeared in the famous Ealing comedy Kind Hearts and Coronets as Edith, the rather stuffy wife of one of the eight D'Ascoyne characters played by Alec Guinness. Her later pictures included The Rocking Horse Winner, from a short story by D. H. Lawrence, and The Card, which was based on the Arnold Bennett novel and again starred Alec Guinness. In 1953, after a long gap, and the year after her first marriage ended in divorce, she was tempted back to the boards by an exceptional part: that later to be immortalised by Deborah Kerr in the 1956 film version of the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical, The King and I. With no previous experience of musicals Hobson was a surprise choice for the Drury Lane stage role, but her performance and singing won general praise and the show ran for more than a year.

During his run she announced her engagement to John Profumo, a junior minister in the Churchill Government, and said that she intended to retire from acting to become a full-time wife. She and Profumo were married on the last day of 1954 and she never appeared in films or on the stage again. Her last film, released in the summer of 1954, was Knave of Hearts with the French actor Gerard Philippe.

She became increasingly well known for her work for charity, her interest in mentally handicapped children being partially explained by the fact that her eldest son was born with Down's syndrome. She is survived by her husband and by the two sons of her first marriage and by the single one of her second, the author David Profumo.

John Holmes, MBE, former chief agent of the Liberal Party, died on October 17 aged 73. He was born on January 14, 1925.



FOR MORE THAN 20 predominantly lean and always turbulent years before his retirement in 1986, John Holmes played a leading role in the Liberal Party, first as regional secretary for the Home Counties, then as chief agent and deputy head of party headquarters. A familiar figure at by-elections, he was also involved at one stage in helping to advance the Liberal cause through local government and in restructuring the party, devolving power from Central London to the regions. He made his mark in the Home Counties between 1965 and 1974, impressing party workers with his political astuteness, and then succeeded to the position of chief agent at what looked like a promising moment for the party.

It was the year in which the Liberals, under Jeremy Thorpe, had won more than six million votes in the general election of February 1974, albeit emerging with a mere 14 seats. A great admirer of the charismatic Thorpe, Holmes was shocked and dismayed by the revelations about his hero's relationship with Norman Scott, which led to his forced resignation from the leadership, his defeat at North Devon in May 1979 and the eventual trial at the Old Bailey at which he and three other men were acquitted. Holmes was almost equally dispirited by such post-Thorpe stratagems as the party's flirtation with Labour under the 'Lib-Lab Pact' (because, prophetically, he distrusted Labour's intentions with regard to proportional representation), and later with the SDP. He and Cyril Smith were not alone in thinking that the SDP should have been 'strangled at birth'.

Paradoxically, his own political affiliations were originally with the old Labour Party. Born in the village of Cavers-

wall, near Stoke-on-Trent, John Westworth Holmes was the son of a white-collar worker at the local colliery. After leaving Caverswall Church School and working briefly in the Potteries, he went down the pits in 1941, aged 16, at a time when an embattled Britain was desperate for more coal and the men to mine it.

He remained in the industry for ten years, becoming in 1947 a member of the National Union of Mineworkers' North Staffordshire District and of the union's Midland Area Council. This duty helped him in 1951 into the job of Labour Party agent for Rugby. Growing disillusionment, however, led to his defection to the Liberals in the early 1960s. The Labour Party he cherished had been that of Clement Attlee and Ernest Bevin and he left it in 1963, a departure made easier by the death in January of that year of Hugh Gaitskell, whom he had also much admired.

He now became Liberal agent for Leicestershire, moving to take over as regional secretary for the Home Counties two years later. While working as chief national agent, he also deputised for the secretary-general at party headquarters, winning a reputation as a skillful negotiator and organiser, but

escaping as often as he could to take charge at the sharp end at by-elections. Yet once again he grew disenchanted with the politics of pragmatism and power-brokering. A neat, dapper man of unwavering principle, he belonged to the age when politicians felt a sense of mission (or seemed to do so). Accordingly, he retired at 61, without too much regret, to cultivate his garden and indulge his love of cooking. A one-time Labour member of Warwickshire County Council, he briefly sat as a Liberal on Rother District Council in Sussex, winning his seat by nine votes after a recount, only to lose it to the Conservatives four years later.

While he had little time for new Labour, he liked and respected the Liberal Democrat leader, Paddy Ashdown, and took great pleasure in the party's gains in last year's general election. 'It's rather nice,' he remarked to a former colleague, 'to have enough MPs for one not to remember all their names.'

The marriage to his first wife, Sylvia, was dissolved, after which, in 1969, he married his second wife, Sonia, a former secretary at Liberal Party headquarters. She survives him, along with their four daughters.

University news

- Oxford Trinity College The Governing Body has made the following elections and awards: BA Nook Memorial Prize for Resonance Gail Akerman, formerly of Latymer School, London.

- Millard Exhibitions in Chemistry Eric Ho Kong, formerly of Warrington College Institute, Manchester. Charles Anezca Voz-Bocha, formerly of International College, Madrid. Andrew John Williams, formerly of Hall Cross Comprehensive School, Dorocheer.

ON THIS DAY

November 16, 1929

A. P. Herbert (Sir Alan Herbert), MP, playwright, witty champion of many causes, was here in his element, for he knew the Thames intimately in all her moods

or jerks or traffic jams. As for speed, she travels nine miles an hour against the tide — more than any tram or bus can do on the average in Central London. For every journey over two miles the water-bus is the quicker.

This attractive vessel will pick you up after the day's work at Blackfriars, at Westminster, at the Tower, at the Temple, etc., and land you anywhere between Hammersmith (or Ken) and Woolwich. And then, Sir, on your afternoon off, you will take your family to the nearest pier, and travel easily down to the Tower, to Wapping or Limehouse, or the Surrey Docks. You will see the charming bustle of the Pool of London, the sailing barges stealing out to sea, the lovely sailing barges beating down, the busy tugs, the vast cranes and warehouses, Billingsgate, the Custom House, the noble pile of Greenwich Hospital rising from the water. You will have tea or dinner at Greenwich and travel back into the evening sun. At dusk, the river becomes an enchanted place, the prosy factories are mysterious and beautiful; the dull trams like fairy coaches float along the Embankment; the lights on the shore, the shadow and sparkle on the water, the fresh bite in the air — here is suddenly a different world, a new London, which the Londoner never sees.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant, A. P. Herbert

NEWS

Clinton in bid to oust Saddam

President Clinton vowed last night to intensify efforts to remove President Saddam Hussein from power, after calling off massive airstrikes on Iraq at the last moment.

Mr Clinton, backed by Tony Blair, warned Saddam that American and British forces would remain on alert to attack if he did not match his promised co-operation with United Nations arms inspectors with action.

Labour gets tough on union recognition

The government is expected to amend its forthcoming employment legislation by making it tougher for unions to achieve automatic recognition in companies. In response to widespread industry concern, Peter Mandelson is poised to introduce safeguards to prevent unions organising snap recruitment campaigns to ensure recognition.

Fortune for the taking

In life Helen Lowe was alone. Having lost her love in the First World War, the Scottish spinster turned her attentions to business and amassed a £7 million fortune. In death, however, she is developing an extended family. A worldwide search has been launched to find heirs to her estate after the pensioner died without making a will.

Bettison speaks out

Norman Bettison, who stars his job as Chief Constable of Merseyside today, has appealed to the families of Hillsborough victims to meet him at any time and any place to resolve the festering row over his appointment.

V&A treasures at risk

Staff at the Victoria and Albert Museum have given a warning that millions of objects are being put at risk by plans to privatise security arrangements. It is feared that night patrols at a repository will be scrapped under the move.

Zimbabwe farm terror

Anarchy is spreading across the highly developed farmland east of Harare as guerrilla war veterans lead hundreds of squatters on to white-owned land that they claim is theirs.

Camilla in limelight

With her hair coiffured, diamonds sparkling around her neck and a dazzling smile, Camilla Parker Bowles stepped out of the background at the weekend to host the Prince of Wales's 50th birthday party.

Newbury bypass

Police are converging on a former battlefield to prepare for the official opening of the most expensive rural bypass ever built in Britain. Sixty-two years after it was mooted, the Newbury bypass will finally open.

Scotty and Virgil hand over the reins

Gerry Anderson, who produced Thunderbirds and Fireball XL5, is preparing to recruit a new generation of young admirers who have never heard of Troy Tempest or Lady Penelope. The legendary producer, now 69, is the driving force behind Lavender Castle, which aims to explore uncharted ground in the use of puppetry on television.



A jaunt across Tarr Steps is a thing of the past as engineers consider options to protect the Exmoor landmark from heavy rains

BUSINESS

Blair speech: The Prime Minister will break with tradition in his Guildhall speech tonight when he is expected to defend Labour's economic policy in the face of mounting job losses.

Carpet deal: Lord Harris of Peckham is set to take back control of Carpetand, 10 years after selling it.

Insurance safeguards: The Government is preparing to relax solvency rules for insurance companies to prevent many of them collapsing should the FTSE 100 plunge below 4,500.

Drugs merger: Germany's Hoechst and Rhone-Poulenc, of France, are planning a £26 billion merger, which could be announced later this week.

FEATURES

Russian challenge: Lina E is representative of a new generation of sassy and financially sophisticated Russians in their twenties who are learning how to beat the system. Lina spirited thousands of pounds out of the country under the noses of the authorities.

Tough stuff: "I bet £100 I'll be in trouble before the year is out." A young offender in Portsmouth doubts that a caring approach to people such as he has much effect.

From red to blue: Katharine Hammett tells Lisa Armstrong why she has joined the Conservative Party.

Eco chic: New fabrics have made environmentally friendly clothes sophisticated.

ARTS

His way: In the past decade the singer Tony Bennett has enjoyed an amazing professional rebirth. Now he has an autobiography and a new album.

Now booking: Dance Umbrella celebrates its 20th birthday with a work for 54 dancers custom-made by Stephan Koplowitz to be performed inside the new British Library.

Sibling creativity: The Donmar Warehouse production of Stephen Sondheim's musical Into the Woods, which opens tonight, is a family affair.

Peerless pairs: London enjoys two double acts: the Philharmonia under Christoph Dohnanyi, and Barbara Bonney with Vladimir Ashkenazy.

SPORT

Football: Aston Villa have emerged as surprise leaders of the FA Cup Premier, but do they have the quality to win the championship?

Tennis: Yevgeny Kafelnikov defeated Goran Ivanisevic in the final of the Kremlin Cup in Moscow yesterday and, in the process, denied Greg Rusedski the final place in the ATP World Championship in Hanover.

Cricket: Graeme Hick has been blown out as cover for Michael Atherton after the former England captain suffered a recurrence of his back injury just a few days before the first Test against Australia.

FA Cup: Leigh RMI achieved the best result of the non-league sides in first round matches, drawing 1-1 with Fulham.

RADIO & TV

Preview: New series of the popular British comedy has Tracy's video becoming possessed, forcing a shift into Dorien's place. Birds of a Feather (BBC, 8.30pm) Review: Paul Hoggart on the old British snear "better glum than dumb".

OPINION

The last word

Iraq has had its clearest warning since 1990. It now knows what to expect. This was diplomacy's last throw.

Labour's blindspot

Britain's grammar schools should be defended as bastions of educational excellence. Instead they are held hostage to ancient Labour prejudices.

The Leonid roars

A meteor storm could herald disaster for world communications.

COLUMNS

PETER RIDDELL

The reinvention of Labour will only be achieved by winning the ideological battle, rather than by using procedural devices to outmanoeuvre opponents.

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

British political life has for centuries been very tolerant of different opinions. That essential spirit of liberalism does not exist in the present government.

LAWRENCE FREEDMAN

Saddam left himself without evident diplomatic wriggle room, no means to obscure retreat, no potential confusion over victors and losers, not even the consolation of Kofi Annan paying court again.

OBITUARIES

Quentin Crewe, writer and traveller; Valerie Hobson, actress; John Holmes, MBE, former chief agent of the Liberal Party.

LETTERS

Argentine President's hopes for peace; Livingstone for mayor? Prince of Wales at 50; Human Rights Act; hospices for children; passports.

LOTTERY NUMBERS

7, 11, 12, 17, 23, 39. Bonus: 42. Two people shared Saturday night's National Lottery draw, each winning £3,086,921.

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

ENTERPRISE The insurance consultant they call the Queen of the Motorbikes

LAW A charm offensive or skilled spin-doctoring: why is the Lord Chancellor a new man?



THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,950

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-26 indicating starting points for clues.

- ACROSS 1 Fast asleep, exactly as everyone understands it (4,2,3,5). 9 Enclosed area crew captured, it's said (9). 10 Rotatable joint inserted in thigh ingeniously (5). 11 Hard worker opposed to being in service (5). 12 Agreeing to study game with fellow outside (9). 13 Immoral behaviour regretfully backed by business community (8). 15 Porridge that is something below par (6). 17 Traveller in the Orient appears to be discontented (6). 19 Scholars settled down a long time before it returned (5). 22 It supported men investing in cert, but he went bust (9). 23 Smooth woman with American backing (5).

- DOWN 24 Honour attracting expression of triumph in US city (5). 25 Bold action, blundering into casual retirement (7-2). 26 Senior politician, say, admitted by presbyter's servant (5,9).

- DOWN 1 In end of a street, oddly projecting from window (14). 2 Entrance of one of Lydia's suitors, say (7). 3 Riding equipment youngsters initially viewed as shoddy (5). 4 Give cutter an order to do this? (5). 5 Surveying instrument's first lost, but still surviving (6). 6 White rose propagated under different conditions (9). 7 Oil producer's love upset off-spring (7). 8 Fail one's colleagues, but prepare cot for use (5,3,4,4). 14 Cleans out jumble in diplomat's residence (9). 16 Flower once known upriver (8). 18 Obtain water-container to accommodate churchman (7). 20 Canines may have their fill of it (7). 21 Spirits in glasses (6). 23 Tailor, we hear, steps over fence (5).

Advertisement for 'The solution of Puzzle No 20,949 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will each receive a £20 book token.'

AA INFORMATION

AA information including latest road and weather conditions, weather by fax, world city weather, and motoring services.

FORECAST

Weather forecast for various regions including London, SE & Central S England, E Anglia, E & NE England, Midlands, Channel Isles, SW, NW & Central N England, Wales, Lake District, Isle of Man, and Outlook.

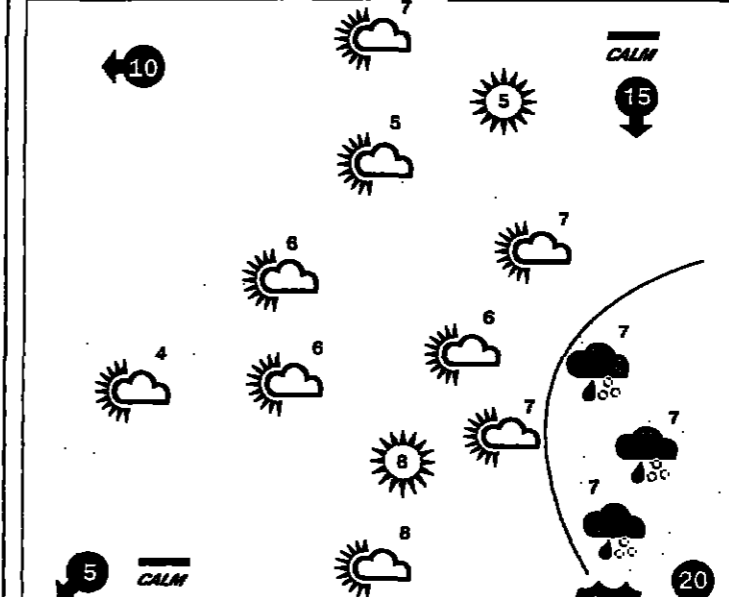
AROUND BRITAIN

Table showing weather conditions around Britain for various locations like Aberdeen, London, Manchester, etc.

ABROAD

Table showing weather conditions for various international locations like Accra, Algiers, Athens, etc.

NOON TODAY



Changes to the chart below noon: High A will drift SE with little change in pressure. Low C is expected to move slowly E with little change. Low W will move NE, filling slowly.

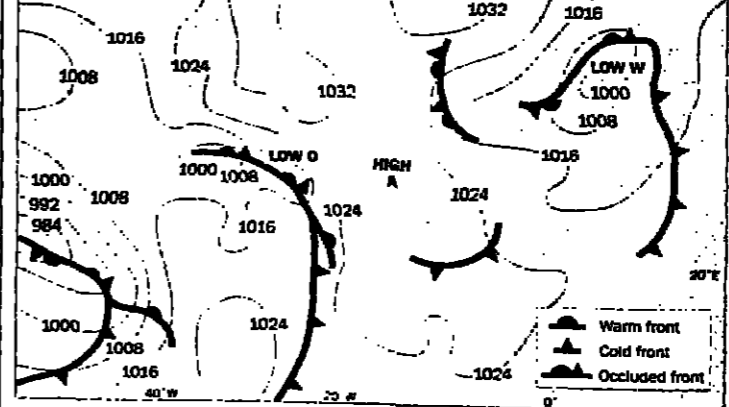


Table showing high tides for various locations like Aberdeen, Avonmouth, Bristol, etc.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

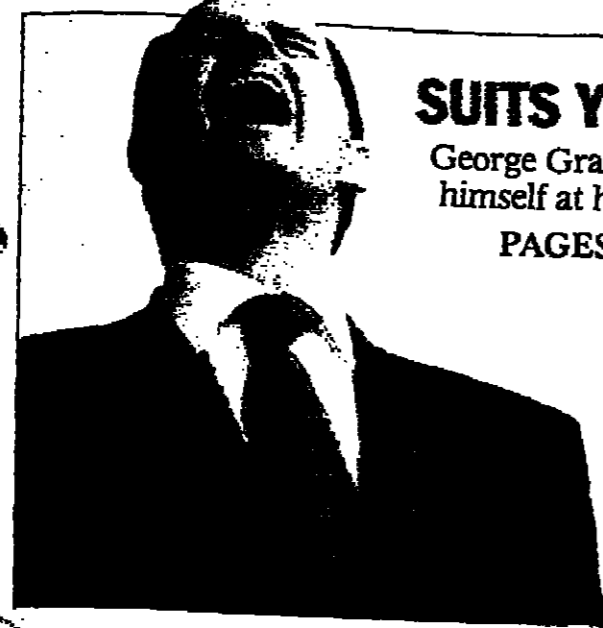
Table showing hours of darkness for various locations like London, Bristol, Manchester, etc.

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Large advertisement for Zenith watches, featuring a watch image and the slogan 'ZENITH LIFE IS IN THE MOVEMENT'.

كندا من الأصل

UNDER THE SKIN OF SPORT

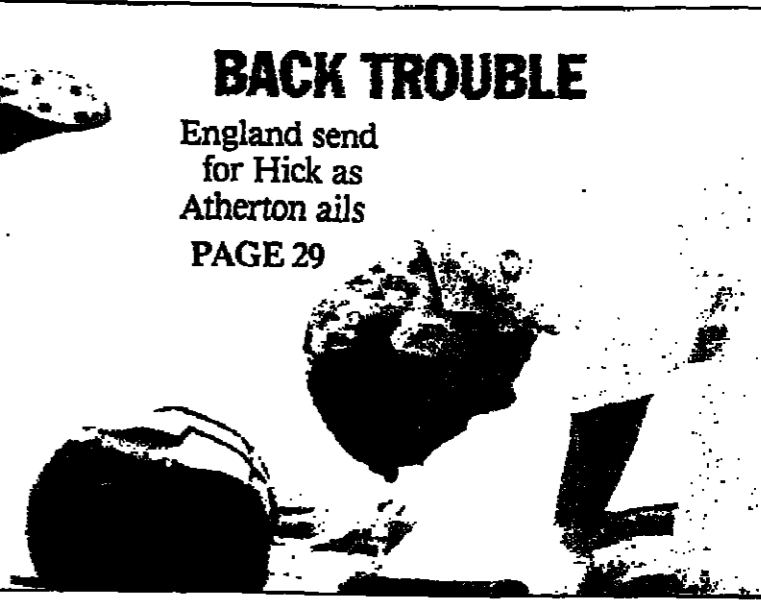


SUITS YOU, SIR
George Graham makes himself at home again
PAGES 30, 34

PLUS
Rusedski misses out
PAGE 28



TRYING
South Africa catch Wales at the last
PAGE 39



BACK TROUBLE
England send for Hick as Atherton ails
PAGE 29

TIMES SPORT 17 PAGES

MONDAY NOVEMBER 16 1998

PREMIERSHIP LEADERS WELL PREPARED FOR LONG RUN

Aston Villa: pretenders or contenders?

WITH their 4-1 victory over Southampton on Saturday, Aston Villa left the nets rippling at The Dell and a tremor, too, is running through all the assumptions about the nature of the contest for the FA Carling Premiership. It will not take long before complacency collapses completely. John Gregory's side must be regarded as contenders for the title. It will be hard to overhaul a team that continues to gather pace. By avoiding defeat in the opening 12 fixtures of the league season, they have bettered a club record that had stood since 1932. The development of the squad that has created that sequence matters more than the statistic. Dion Dublin's hat-trick against Southampton brought his goals total to five in the two matches he has played since moving from Coventry City for £5.75 million. Dublin, who is joined in the England party by three other Villa players - Paul Merson, Gareth Southgate and Lee Hendrie - could well play in the match with the Czech Republic on Wednesday. The recruitment of so effective a forward to partner Stan Colly-

Kevin McCarra says the surprise pacemakers can make a lasting challenge

ing Villa to exist on a larger scale. Given the extent of the support and the size of the city of Birmingham, it is almost embarrassing that they have only taken the championship on one occasion, in 1981, since the First World War. The manager is striving to deepen ambitions. Few members of the crowd would have expected such exploits from Gregory when he left Wycombe Wanderers to become Brian Little's successor. In the early days of this season, when Dwight Yorke was sold to Manchester United for £12.5 million, there were a woe-begone conviction among supporters that Villa had also parted company with ambition. Gregory, though, has employed the proceeds to strengthen every area of the side. Apart from Dublin, Merson was bought from Middlesbrough for £6.75 million to act as a prompter in advanced midfield and Steve Watson was taken from Newcastle United, for £4 million, to fill the wing-back role on the right. Opulence is apparent in the quality of the players called upon irregularly. Among those on the bench at The Dell were Mark Draper, a £3.25 million signing by Little from Leicester City, Alan Thompson, extracted from Bolton Wanderers for £4.5 million and Julian Joachim, an eager deputy when Collymore is injured. The newcomers acquired by Gregory alone have cost £20 million. In the circumstances, there should be less surprise over Villa's upsurge. The manager has a trace of the maverick in his character and a breach with convention has its value at a club in the habit of under-achievement. Gregory toyed with the fashionable idea of foreign purchases, but concluded, he has explained, that they are like holiday romances. Before long it is impossible to fathom what the attraction was. With Michael Oakes replacing the injured Mark Bosnich in goal, the team is composed of Englishmen. Gregory is adroit, but he has also benefited from good fortune. David Unsworth came to Villa from West Ham United and was immediately unsettled. His departure for Everton saw Gareth Barry, the remarkable teenager, become a regular member of the defence. That convergence of good planning and mere chance contribute to the feeling that this will be an unusual season for the club. Fans, reliving the triumph of 17 years ago, will also be heartened by a telling analogy. Then, Ipswich Town were the main rivals, but found themselves taxed by prolonged involvement in the UEFA Cup and FA Cup. Villa, to their eventual advantage, were quickly eliminated from everything other than the league. This time, Villa's season is again being streamlined, by early disappointment in the Worthington Cup and UEFA Cup. Gregory will wish Manchester United, Arsenal and Chelsea long and exhausting participation in their respective European competitions.



Vintage claret? Dublin celebrates on the way to his hat-trick at Southampton on Saturday, but is the Villa class of '98, below left, of the same quality as Dennis Mortimer's 1980-81 champions? Main photograph: Robin Jones



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Hickman turns on the style to claim win

BY CRAIG LORD

There is no stopping James Hickman even when he swims slower than his opponents...

Lara posts his intent with rapid century

BRIAN LARA, the West Indies captain, scored a century to take his side to tea on 213 for five yesterday on the second day of their four-day match against Griquialand West.

Easy favourite

He is ready for the first Test against South Africa on November 26 when he struck 16 fours and two sixes on his way to 101 off 140 deliveries.

Ice skating: British Championships fall short of achieving overall quality

THE British figure skating championships, which ended at Milton Keynes on Saturday, proved to be a mixed affair in terms of quality.

Ke sets the pace in challenge for trophy

Stephanie Main set the pace in the ladies' short programme on Friday, but the free programme failed to follow suit.

Anal on march

ALL the attention was on the men's event, first place went to Clive Shorten, who executed two clean triple jumps in combination and, despite falling on a triple flip, performed a well-presented programme.

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Hick called to join tour party as problems mount with Brisbane Test only five days away

Latest failure by Butcher adds to England anxiety

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN CAIRNS

CAIRNS (third day of four): England XI, with five second-innings wickets in hand, need 68 runs to beat Queensland

WHATEVER else may be said of England's build-up for the Ashes series, it has not lacked variety. They encountered a dramatically quick pitch in Perth, a numbingly slow one in Adelaide and, here in tropical Cairns, a surface of such increasingly eccentric bounce that 17 wickets fell yesterday.

David Lloyd, the coach, even with the team's unbeaten record in peril, refused to complain about conditions. Instead, he emphasised the benefits of a game in melting humidity. Brisbane, Australia's stickiest Test ground, will seem a comparative breeze when the series begins on Friday, but the problem is that England are approaching it in a state of growing anxiety over what seemed to be one of their principal strengths.

On the evidence of last summer, England had identified a compatible opening pair. Now, however, Michael Atherton is once more incapacitated by back trouble and Mark Butcher's form has deserted him. Together, they made a sorry spectacle yesterday. Atherton moved gingerly around the marquee that houses the teams, taking no active part in proceedings and looking twice his age whenever obliged to bend.



The bats fly and the middle stump disappears as Crawley is bowled in Cairns

Atherton seeks urgent cure for back pain

FROM ALAN LEE

MICHAEL ATHERTON will consult a specialist in Brisbane tomorrow, seeking an urgent cure for the recurring back condition that is threatening his participation in the Ashes series.

The decision to recruit Hick was taken last night, after a day of anxiety over Atherton's latest relapse. David Greaney, the chairman of selectors, endorsed the need to send reinforcements, saying that it was "the right and proper thing to do".

English pair retain title

FROM DAVID RHYNS JONES IN KOWLOON

ANDY WILLS and Stuart Airey, the England pair, retained their Manulife Hong Kong International Classic pairs title in Kowloon yesterday when they defeated Adam Jeffery and Rex Johnston.

Main accepts her chance to claim third national crown

BY ANGELA COURT

"I've enjoyed competing again," Main, 22, who last won this title in 1995, said. "A lot of people wrote me off because I haven't been around, but that just made me more determined."

Tammy Sear, from Milton Keynes, who had given the performance of her life in the short programme, finished in second place, despite making several mistakes in the free section.

In the men's event, first place went to Clive Shorten, who executed two clean triple jumps in combination and, despite falling on a triple flip, performed a well-presented programme.

Charlotte Clements and Gary Shortland defended their title, but the Slough couple had to pull out all the stops in their free dance programme as the competition produced a nail-biting finish.

The National Ice Skating Association will announce the Britain teams today for the European and world championships next year.

Kerr and Ferguson pushed the winners all the way. Their up-tempo routine, which included a hydroblade move, was both technical and entertaining and drew enthusiastic applause from the audience.

Humphreys and Baranov may not have triumphed on this occasion, but they have worked a minor miracle in the short time that they have been together. They first teamed up in May, when they were both taking part in the "Hot Ice Show" at Blackpool, and have had to fit their training around their work for the show, which did not finish until last weekend.

The National Ice Skating Association will announce the Britain teams today for the European and world championships next year.

Wills, a Cheltenham protégé of Tony Aoumer, and Airey have six years' experience of playing lead and second as part of the England quartet who are the world outdoor singles champions.

Their victory last year was regarded as something of a surprise, after England had sent a succession of senior players to Hong Kong without success since the Classic was first staged in 1981, but the young apprentices proved their ability this year.

Scoreboard from Cairns table showing Queensland's first innings, batting and bowling statistics, and a list of wicket-takers.



Atherton is brought to his knees by his latest back pain

FA Carling Premiership: Draw against former club delights Tottenham manager

Graham elated by mirror image

ARSENAL 0
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR 0
by Oliver Holt
Football Correspondent

GEORGE GRAHAM stood in an alcove, high in the Marble Halls. From time to time, he popped his head above the crowd that surrounded him to acknowledge the greetings of men and women who had been friends in his Highbury days. Mostly, he looked earnest and eager as he spoke about the match that had just ebbed away. He still has the hungry look of a scavenger, but he was smiling, too, a smile that said he had just found a small corner of paradise.

Saturday was a good day for Graham. It did not matter that there were some half-hearted cries of "Judas" from the crowd that once adored him. He did not seem to care that one of the Arsenal fanzines had dedicated its front cover to a picture of him shaking hands with Alan Sugar, the Tottenham Hotspur chairman, underneath the legend "Traitor" and the anguished question: "George, how could you?"

The majority of Arsenal supporters could not bring themselves to barrack the new manager of Spurs and concentrated instead on yelling out their support for Arsène Wenger. Graham does not need to be liked or adored and besides, the result of this North London derby gave him so much pleasure that he could barely contain his glee.

A 0-0 draw against the English champions, the team that he made great again, was like a double helping of treacle for him, a double compliment, a double tribute. With a Tottenham team that had a reputation for leaking soft goals before he arrived, it was an achievement to have withstood the barrage to which Arsenal had subjected his new charges.



Graham and Chris Hughton, his assistant, get behind the Tottenham team during the goalless draw at Highbury. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

At the other end, the back four that he had moulded in long hours of training-ground drilling stood firm, too, so that by the end, both defences looked like mirror images of one another. For the grace and immovability of Sol Campbell, there was the authority and unshakeability of Tony Adams. "I gave me a great deal of satisfaction to see two teams that I have coached drawing nil-nil," Graham grinned.

Even if it was not the most inspiring of games, the encounter still somehow managed to act as 90 minutes of vindication for the George Graham way, 90 minutes of unstinting effort, of refusal to yield, of absolute determination not to let the opposition pass. It lacked a lot in creativity, but in Tottenham's case at least, Graham is confident that that will come.

There was a hint of reconciliation in the air, too, despite the chants of the supporters. Graham revealed that he had shaken hands with David Dein and Daniel Fiszman for the first time since the Arsenal directors contributed to his exit from the club three years ago in the wake of the bung scandal in which Graham had become embroiled.

"That is all water under the bridge now," Graham said. "I haven't got any problem with any of it. It has been built up out of all proportion. I don't care about the fans' reaction. It is all part and parcel of the game these days. Isn't it? Players have to put up with it when they go back to previous clubs and it is no different for me."

"I was just pleased that when Arsenal pounded away at us, we did not crack. I would be a fool to think I could win the championship with a side that just avoided relegation last season, but the big problem is getting new players of the quality we need."

"But the desire is already at the club. You saw it in their refusal to give in and there has already been an improvement in attitude. It is first class. That comes about from what we do on the training pitch and they are still prepared to learn. It is encouraging, but there is a long way to go."

Sugar seems to have developed already a healthy respect for Graham. He reached through the throng of reporters quizzing his manager after the game to shake him by the hand. "I'll speak to you later, guv'nor," he said.

The Tottenham players feel the same way; that much is obvious. They were outplayed by Arsenal without ever looking as though they would lose. They played conservatively, harrying and hassling the champions out of their stride.

Guileless Newcastle travelling in circles

IN ONE of the most celebrated drawings by M. C. Escher, Ruud Gullit's favourite artist, a group of faceless individuals are viewed tramping up and down a never-ending staircase. In the words of the Newcastle United manager: "You can follow the figures and trace their steps going down stairs, only to come to a point above where they originally started." The picture, ironically, is entitled *Ascending and Descending*.

As a child, the piece captivated Gullit, who received an early grounding in the fine and graphic arts through his visits to the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam. "It was the mystery, the almost paranormal nature of those compositions that attracted me," he writes in his autobiography. "But then I've always been fascinated by the unknown." At the age of 36, he is drawn to it still.

After five consecutive and giddy years of ascent, Newcastle remain stubbornly, if not actively, in the descendant. Gullit has been in charge at St James' Park for 14 games and while he insists he sees a lot of improvements, there were signs on Saturday that it has been time spent travelling in circles. He has no new players and is still unsure as how to make best use of those already at his disposal.

To illustrate the point, Gullit dispensed with David Baty, the England midfielder player, against Sheffield Wednesday. Baty's recent form has not maintained its usual consistency, but there was little doubt that it was a failed experiment. Within half an hour, it was aborted unceremoniously.

NEWCASTLE UNITED 1
SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY 1
by George Caulkin

"All the time you are stuck between two points," Gullit said of his decision, which involved substituting Dietmar Hamann, the German international. "You want to attack, of course, but you also want to control the game. We scored the goal, but we were not in control. What do you do? I think it is better to control when we did, there was no way they were going to score." Circles, always circles.

The dilemma facing Gullit was summarised neatly by a source of some weight. "You can't rely on one player, but Newcastle rely too much on Alan Shearer," Pavel Srnicek, the new Wednesday goalkeeper, said on his return to the club he left last season. "Des Walker handled him well and, when he hasn't got the ball, the others don't know what to do with it."

It all amounts up to a bit of a muddle, especially when considering that, in their past two matches, Newcastle have let slip an early advantage. On this occasion, it came after only four minutes, Paul Dalgleish scoring his debut goal in the FA Carling Premiership after Srnicek spilled a shot by Warren Barton.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST 1
DERBY COUNTY 1
Tonight, 8pm

Kevin McCarra Eyes may moisten when a pageant is staged tonight to celebrate Nottingham Forest's 100 years at the City Ground. Supporters might reminisce about Brian Clough and European Cup glories, but the recollection is also a reminder that it is now much harder for a club of Forest's size to prosper.

There is no scope for brooding, though. Success over Derby County would bring Forest only their third win in the FA Carling Premiership, but their capacity to achieve it is in question. Very little runs according to plan for them. The attempt to buy Joey Beauchamp, the Oxford United winger, for £800,000 had to be abandoned when he failed a medical, more evidence that frustrations follow Dave Bassett, the manager.

Jim Smith, the Derby manager, will be without Carsley, Stimac and Delap, but there would have been little temptation to meddle greatly, having won at Anfield.

LIVERPOOL 1
LEEDS UNITED 3
by Stephen Wood

ONE man, squirming in his seat in the main stand at Anfield, could barely contain his disgust. A large individual bearing an alarming resemblance to Buster Bloodvessel, the former pop star, his face turned red as obscenities spewed from his mouth, making for a sight only marginally more unattractive than Liverpool's latest capitulation.

He was conspicuous, too, but that owed more to the fact that he was alone in protesting at what he was seeing. No longer is the prospect of playing at Anfield a daunting one and on the whole the players, staff and supporters know it. Their anger is turning to apathy.

Phil Thompson, the assistant manager, was animated for 78 minutes on Saturday, but spent the remainder a forlorn figure. Even Gerard Houllier, the manager, admitted he was not surprised that, once Leeds United had pinched an equaliser, they strolled through for two more goals and a win that should have proved impossible.

"After they scored their first, I knew there would be dreadful consequences for us," Houllier said after his first match in sole control after the departure of Roy Evans. "It awakened some nightmares within us."

Indeed, it became their third home defeat in a week, unthinkable for Liverpool sides of old.

It is fortunate that Houllier, a self-effacing man, will apply similar treatment to the imposters of success and failure. Success appears to be light years away, but Liverpool need to eschew hysteria to prevent failure from screwing

Liverpool supporters accept the inevitable

As Thompson possesses a vast knowledge of players on the Continent and a contacts' book to match, it will, no doubt, be from there that he transforms the face of Liverpool, but, for a goalkeeper that they badly need, he might start closer to home, with a bid to lure Mark Bosnich, the Aston Villa man,

from the rumoured clutches of Manchester United.

Any possible renaissance will be in contrast to the development occurring at Leeds. David O'Leary, the manager, enjoyed his side's first away win of the season and said: "I am a young manager and I have a young team and we all feel very close, as though we are building something special. I do want to bring young British players through, however, and not rely on foreigners."

O'Leary's grand plan took shape rather more quickly than even he could have expected. After Robbie Fowler — so unfit and out of touch that he contributed little else — had given Liverpool the lead with a penalty, Alan Smith, the Leeds substitute, equalised with his second touch, a shot past James with 12 minutes remaining. Smith, 18, was only available because of the cancellation of an England Under-18 trip in Israel and it was his first appearance in senior football.

The equaliser followed another penalty appeal by Liverpool barely 30 seconds earlier, when Woodgate appeared to trip David Thompson. The home side were unhappy, too, that a foul by Hopkin went unnoticed before Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink scored to give Leeds the Leeds lead in 87 minutes with Liverpool players committed upfield.

LIVERPOOL (4-4-2): D. James; V. Hoogmoed; S. Skarvin; S. Birmaher; D. Thompson. P. Ince; J. Rodonaga; P. Bages; K. Bosnich (sub). O. Leach; Anderson (68min); R. Fowler. LEEDS UNITED (3-4-3): N. Mann; J. Woodgate; M. Haden; R. Mckenzie; G. Hall; D. Hopkin; L. Brown; J. White; C. Whelan (sub); A. Smith; J. F. Hasselbaink. H. Howat. Referee: D. Galloway.

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20/1 3-1 20/1
25/1 3-2 25/1
8/1 0-0 8/1
11/2 1-1 11/2
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Houllier watches in alarm as Liverpool slip to defeat

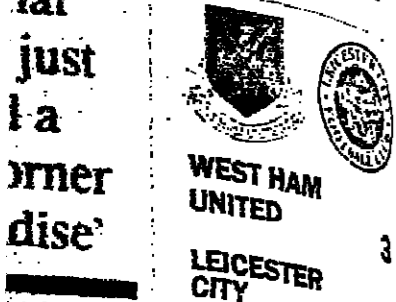
the unlucky Leicester goalkeeper, must have been staggering by Saturday evening. Beaten by a ball that spun like an off break against Leeds United in midweek, he saw a late inswinger from Lampard fly past him for West Ham's third goal. Three hours later, he failed to save penalties taken by a machine on Noel's House Party. Television stardom is clearly reserved for just one footballer at the moment.

WEST HAM UNITED (3-4-3): S. Hogg; I. Franco; R. Fordham; J. Dicks; I. Sester; S. Lorge; F. Lampard; M. Keller; E. Bennett; I. Wright; R. Iversen (sub). J. Morrison (68min). LEICESTER CITY (2-5-1-1): M. Keller; F. Sinclair; M. Elliott; S. Walsh; R. Strang; N. Lennon; R. Ullahorne; G. Parker (sub); S. Campbell; S. Gray; J. Gray; M. Collins (64); G. Fenlon (sub); S. Wilson (68). Referee: S. Lodge.

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THE TIMES FA Carling
Everton no can their
United near to pay high for energy

Wright a host unto himself



WEST HAM UNITED 3 LEICESTER CITY 2

IAN WRIGHT, triumphed stood alone in the centre circle, milking the post-match applause. With most of his teammates already in the tunnel, Wright's newest club had a host had an audience to sell again. Less than 24 hours after a series of Friday nights, Wright had been shown Saturday afternoon that he will be fine. In a week when Liverpool decided that two men could do one job, he had proved one man could do two.

FA Carling Premiership: Coventry's demolition adds to Merseyside misery

Everton offer no case for their defence



COVENTRY CITY 3 EVERTON 0

by Alyson Rudd

THERE could be a moral in this comprehensive defeat for Everton. Coventry have now won both of their FA Carling Premiership games since the sale of Dion Dublin to Aston Villa. The whole club looked to Dublin for inspiration and the ability to turn games around, yet the results were disappointing. Without Dublin, it seems that the rest of the squad can express themselves — free at last from the cult of the totem.

Whelan, left, holds off a challenge by Bakayoko as Coventry establish supremacy at Highfield Road yesterday

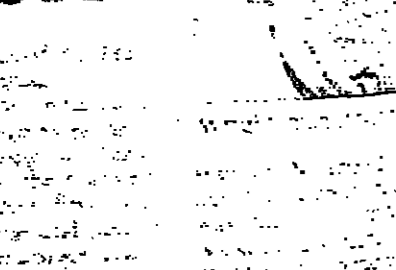


Whelan, left, holds off a challenge by Bakayoko as Coventry establish supremacy at Highfield Road yesterday

He spotted the centrally-placed Huckerby, who turned and fired past Myhre. This was confident stuff, not lucky. Coventry combined pace with intelligence.

Whelan was guilty of a very bad miss indeed after Telfer's cross found him in acres of space and if only Huckerby had spotted him — so isolated it was laughable — Everton would have been further punished.

United nearly made to pay high price for energy savings



MANCHESTER UNITED 2 BLACKBURN ROVERS 2

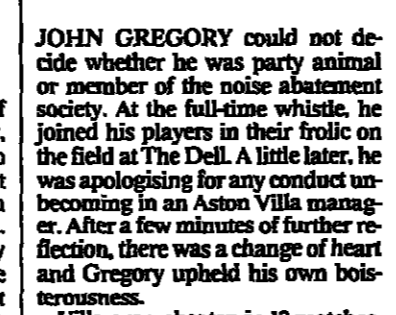
by Michael Henderson

FOR half an hour on Saturday afternoon, Manchester United played pretty much like champions. They passed the ball so well that Blackburn Rovers could barely get a kick, scored two good goals and their football made a pleasant autumn day even more agreeable. Yet they ended up beating ten men with only one goal to spare. What was the matter?

Too much confidence, for one thing. Nobody expected Blackburn to score in a month of Sundays, not with Davies and Blake groping around like trussed-up bears, so one can forgive United a teeny bit for dropping their guard. Did Roy Hodgson, the Blackburn manager, really pay £12 million for that pair? Davies has yet to score for the club and the corpulent Blake looks out of his depth at this level, which is why he cost "only" £4.5 million. Your witness, Mr Porter. "Day's night today, and black's white today."

Yorke, they had the most influential player on the field. Scholes scored the first of his two goals when Yorke delivered a pass of exactly the right weight and Yorke then completed a gorgeous move by shooting in the second. The two players combined for the third goal, finished by Scholes's raking shot 14 minutes into the second half, when the game had taken on the appearance of a rout.

Gregory raises expectations in the wake of Villa's victory party



SOUTHAMPTON 2 ASTON VILLA 4

by Kevin McCarra

JOHN GREGORY could not decide whether he was party animal or member of the noise abatement society. At the full-time whistle, he joined his players in their frolic on the field at The Dell. A little later, he was apologising for any conduct unbecoming in an Aston Villa manager. After a few minutes of further reflection, there was a change of heart and Gregory upheld his own boisterousness.

That ought not to be sufficient. With only one championship since the First World War, Villa, the dominant force in the second-largest city in Britain, have been peculiarly prone to leading a life of seclusion. The episodes when they throw their weight around and barge rivals aside have been too rare. For that reason, Gregory is attempting to reprogramme the attitudes of the club and of himself. Instead of hoping to challenge for the title, Villa ought to expect it of themselves.

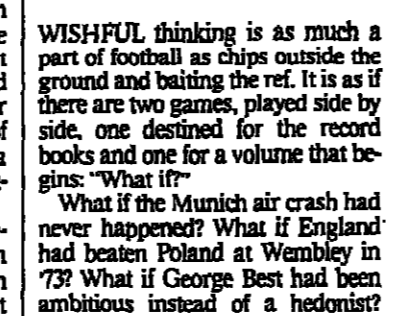
Watson, sending the ball skipping low into the corner of the net. He struck again, after a searching run from Lee Hendrie, by gathering possession and bending a shot round Paul Jones, the goalkeeper, from the edge of the area.

in a move that was piercing in its stark efficiency. Dublin completed his hat-trick five minutes from the end, when possession fell to him in the goalmouth after Ugo Ehiogu had challenged for Hendrie's corner.



One could write all day about the

Gascoigne the king of wishful thinking



CHARLTON ATHLETIC 1 MIDDLESBROUGH 1

by Peter Robinson

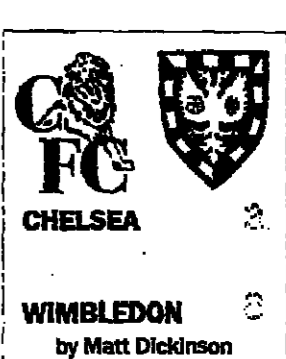
destruction had been a gift for, say, macramé? What if he wasn't so damned unlucky?

destruction had been a gift for, say, macramé? What if he wasn't so damned unlucky? Nobody will ever know and so, for all his magic and magnificence, Gascoigne will probably be remembered at the Queen's Head as another of those mavericks who never quite capitalised on their talent.

Brian Deane was too dozy to collect, he received a sharp blow on the calf and that was pretty much that.

rules to let them play, and, at the break, their presence seemed to be paying off. Charlton had gone ahead when Gascoigne, clearly frustrated and right in front of the referee, kicked Jones after they had challenged for a header.

Flo show gives Vialli no choice



WIMBLEDON

by Matt Dickinson

AS Gianluca Vialli gushed forth on the unparalleled merits of Tore Andre Flo, variously describing him as one of the best forwards in the world and a Chelsea legend in the making, there was one question that went unasked: "So why haven't you blinking well been picking him?" When, on Saturday, Vialli did at last pick Flo for his first start of the FA Carling Premiership season, it coincided — surprise, surprise — with Chelsea's most effective and efficient display thus far.

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when he twisted away from Chris Perry, his marker, as he did throughout the match. Instead, the leggy striker had to content with setting up the goals for others. All three were finished with wonderful composure, the unerring ease with which they appeared to be placed past Neil Sullivan underlining the inequality between the clubs. Chelsea could have won by six, but ultimately had two sweeping finishes from Zola and Poyet and a nonchalant third from Petrescu to show for their domination.

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

Table with 3 columns: Team, Goals, Points. Includes Arsenal, Chelsea, Manchester United, Liverpool, Tottenham Hotspur.

Table with 3 columns: Team, Goals, Points. Includes Southampton, Blackburn, West Ham, Leicester, Coventry.

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Text listing results from Saturday's matches, including scores and goalscorers.

RESULTS FROM SATURDAY'S MATCHES

Text listing results from Saturday's matches, including scores and goalscorers.

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Carling F.A. Premiership logo and promotional text.

Nationwide Football Leagues logo and promotional text.

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Roberto Baggio, of Internazionale, finds his path to goal blocked by Ferron, the Sampdoria goalkeeper, yesterday. His side returned to form with a 3-0 victory

NON-LEAGUE AND NATIONAL LEAGUES

Table of non-league and national league fixtures including Conference, Ryman, and others.

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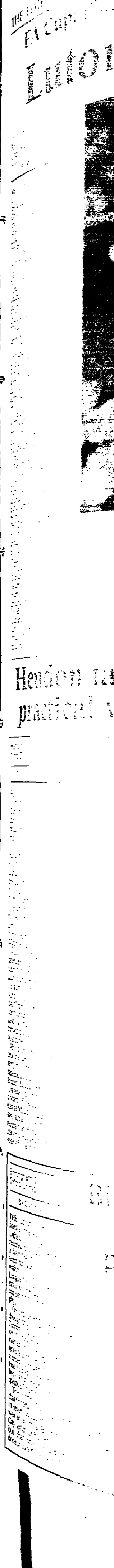
Nationwide Football Leagues logo and promotional text.

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NOVEMBER 16 1998
Wright a host unto himself

FA Cup: Plucky Boreham Wood make Nationwide League team fight for survival Luton almost taste own medicine

Boreham Wood.....2
Luton Town.....3
By Rob Hughes

THE appeal of cup football, as Luton Town, having already dispensed with Ipswich Town, Coventry City and Barnsley, in the Worthington Cup this season have shown, is that adrenalin and desire can bridge the ability gap.
In a spirited game at Meadow Park yesterday, Luton managed, just to make superior talents tell and, significantly, were the only Nationwide League club to do so in the day's four matches between league and non-league opposition.
They won because their concentration, opportunism and skills prevailed, but, in an open and small ground, swept by the coldest and keenest of northerly winds, the professionals were not that distinguishable from those who earn their living laying carpets or working at the bank.
Indeed, Kerry Dixon, who, at 37, admits that his legs are not what they were, was furious with the Boreham Wood players, among whom he performs to the remaining depths of his lung power and coaches.
"We didn't expect to beat Luton," he said, "but once we were out there, we had our chance. We lost because of basic errors; not marking people like Steve Davis and Phil Gray in the goalmouth is not on. We matched them for endeavour, but our concentration gave way and we were made to pay for it."
These occasions in the FA Cup are to be savoured. The security forces put a maximum of 4,000 places in this ground, refurbished recently for £500,000, but though the audience is close enough almost to touch the players, to smell their embrocation, it takes rather more than names



Dixon, left, the Boreham Wood coach and former England striker, is outjumped by Davis at Meadow Park yesterday. Photograph: Marc Aspland

to impress the folks of Boreham Wood.
Graham Hill raised his family around the corner and from the new stand can be seen Elstree Studios, where all manner of stars of the screen have made their names.
Nevertheless, Phil Gray, with his well-taken brace of goals yesterday, was a 30-year-old celebrating a

return to a comparative life at the top. He spent last season in an agonised limbo, suffering injury to both ankles and then requiring back surgery, so the flow of his instinctive goals this season is a release, one recognised by a belated call into the Northern Ireland squad this week.
His first strike came, as Dixon, a Lutonian through

and through, had complained. After a short corner on the right, Alexander crossed the ball precisely and, with the home defence grouped around the dangerous Davis, Gray was left in yards of space to score with a precise header.
At this stage, Boreham Wood were gambling. Dominic Grime, the right winger, was off the field requiring

stitches to his right eyebrow. A man short, his colleagues succumbed.
Luton, however, knew that they had lived dangerously and that while Dixon lacked mobility, the tall and athletic Tony Samuels was forever a danger. Nonetheless, after a hypnotic run from Sean Evers, Kofi Nyamah struck the outside of the post and, within

minutes of that, Alexander and Evers broke down the right. Stuart Douglas rode the lunging tackle of Garry Nisbet and then laid the ball back unselfishly for Gray to score his second.
"I thought then we had to be safe, but I was wrong," Lemmie Lawrence, the astute Luton manager, said. "Boreham Wood were never going to beat

us, but they reminded us of what the Cup is about — they wouldn't let go."
Nisbet certainly would not. He is a man who has handled more money than even the overnight millionaires of the FA Carling Premiership, a man whose day job is as head printer of banknotes for the Bank of England. Striding forward from his defensive post, he capitalised on a woeful headed clearance by Marvin Johnson to score low down with his right foot.
Awakened, Luton eventually reimposed their rhythm and their two-goal advantage. Gray, almost inevitably, was involved. Finding space beyond the far post at a Ray McKinnon corner, he produced a delicate chip back into the goalmouth, where Davis scored with a whiplash header.
Even then, it was not comfortable for Boreham Wood, drinking again on the spirit of the underdog, made use at last of Dixon's renowned aerial command. Grime, restored to the wing, lofted the ball towards Dixon, the former England centre forward headed it down and Mark Xavier, the substitute, scored for the Rymans League team.
"A lot of people in there are giving us plaudits," Dixon said, "but it's not good enough. We talked and we trained long on set-pieces, but two mistakes at corners and we're out of the FA Cup. We may be part-timers, but we have to correct those faults, and quickly, if we are to maintain this club's progress towards League football." Severe, lacking the romance of the Cup, but true.
Boreham Wood (3-2): M Taylor — S Sanders, G Huxford, A McCarthy — D Gane, J Shaw, M Brown, S Doherty, M Brady (sub: S Ireland, 67) — K Dixon, T Samuels (sub: D O'Leary, 69), K Davis — G Alexander, S Taylor, G McCowan — S Gentry, P McNamee, R McNamee (sub: M Spring, 90), K Nyamah (sub: M McArdle, 88) — P Gray, S Douglas (sub: G Doherty, 82).
Referee: P Aloys.

Doncaster draw no jewel for ambitious Diamonds

By Nick Szczepanik

THE prize for Doncaster Rovers and Rushden and Diamonds, two of Saturday's FA Cup first-round giantkillers, was to be drawn against each other in the only tie of the second round that guarantees non-league representation in the third, when the FA Carling Premiership and Nationwide League first division clubs enter the competition.
Doncaster, who lost Football League status at the end of last season and now prop up the Football Conference, will be at home, for their first appearance in the second round since 1989, after becoming the first non-league side to win at Roots Hall, where they beat Southend United 1-0. Rushden and Diamonds, who lie fourth in the Conference with games in hand, beat Shrewsbury Town by the same score.
Bedlington Terriers, of the Amnott Insurance Northern League first division, whose convincing 4-1 victory over Colchester United was the outstanding result of the first



Second round draw, page 32

round, were rewarded, if that is the word, with a journey to Scunthorpe United. "One of the greatest Cup results produced by a North East non-league side," Keith Perry, the joint-manager said. "If we can play the same way at Scunthorpe, who knows what might lie ahead?" Other non-league survivors who have to travel include Southport, who go to Mansfield Town, and Hednesford Town, 3-1 conquerors of Barnet, who visit Cardiff City.
Generally, the draw was kind to Nationwide League clubs, with only Northampton Town, who have appeared at Wembley in each of the past two seasons in play-off finals, and Leyton Orient, definitely relegated, probably relieving a miss just after half-time when, with only the goalkeeper to beat, he shot wide.
Miles Thorpe, the striker, and Paul David, the midfielder who scored at Upton Park last season, also missed opportunities before Rotherham, found their reprieve. With ten minutes left, Chris Sedgewick's cross was met by a weak header by Michael Thompson, the Emley defender, and the ball fell to Danny Hudson. Hudson, 19, chested it down and drilled a volley into the bottom corner.
Trevor Berry nearly produced a winner for Rotherham in the dying moments, but that would have been tough on Emley. Ronnie Moore, the Rotherham manager, said: "I am just glad we are still in it. At half-time, I had to ask who the part-timers were." Ronnie Glynn, the Emley manager, said: "I was so proud of my players — again. We know we are capable of causing a shock in the replay, but the players were a bit down in the dressing room."
EMLEY (4-2): A Preece — S Nicholson (sub: N Wood, 22min), M Thompson, J Lewis, S Jones — M Reynolds, C Hant, P David, J Barnes — M Thorpe (sub: D Calcutt, 70), S Entwistle.
ROTHERHAM UNITED (4-2): M Preece — V Vignoli, V Warner, N Fletcher, P Hurd — C Sedgewick, D Hudson, D Garner, A Preece — R Tacey (sub: P Pomeroy, 82), T Berry.
Referee: D Lewis.

Hendon take a practical view

Hendon.....0
Notts County.....0
By Nick Szczepanik

FOR those who believe strongly in the romance of the FA Cup, the closing moments of the tie at Clarendon Road yesterday must have been sobering ones.
With the game goalless, Hendon were awarded a free kick on the halfway line, with a chance to launch another of the high crosses into the penalty area that had troubled Notts County all afternoon — so, everyone, surely, would be pushed forward in a final effort to secure the prize of a home second-round tie with Wigan Athletic?
Well, no, actually. All four defenders stayed firmly in their positions, the kick was cleared and Hendon saw out the game with only one forward. "I just felt we were tiring," Frank Murphy, the Hendon manager, said. "It was no good going kamikaze and throwing away the hard work we'd done. I'll settle for that."
However, before anyone gets the idea that the lust for glory no longer exists among non-league clubs and that the Ryman League premier division side was thinking only of a share of the gate for the replay at Meadow Lane in eight days' time, it is worth remembering that Hendon won a replay on a league ground at this stage of the competition last

Felgate keeps Keegan marauders at bay

Fulham.....1
Leigh RMI.....1
By Ivo Tennant

THEY had no wish to leave the pitch and, for some while, it seemed that a lap of honour was in order. Leigh RMI had brought just 706 supporters to London for their biggest match to date, but some regretted the long journey from the rugby league domain of Wigan. Their team thoroughly merited a draw and a lucrative FA Cup first-round replay on November 24.
Indeed, other than a period of perhaps 15 minutes when Fulham peppered the Leigh goalkeeper with crosses, shots and headers, there was all too little to choose between the teams. Leigh took the lead and benefited greatly from the experience of David Felgate, their 38-year-old goalkeeper, who has made more than 700 appearances for some of the less celebrated northern clubs in the Football League. His positioning and reflexes were terrific.
Kevin Keegan, the Fulham manager, generously applauded the Leigh supporters as he trudged off at the end, but must have wished that he had spent Sunday at home with his family, as his boss, Mohamed Al Fayed, habitually does. "It was a great performance by Leigh," he said. Steve Waywell, the Leigh

Lively Reynolds left to rue miss

Emley.....1
Rotherham United.....1
By Stephen Wood

EMLEY Football Club does not have much of an FA Cup pedigree, but the assortment of firemen, policemen, insurance salesmen and Elvis impersonators presently wearing the claret and blue shirts appear determined to change that beyond redemption.
Last season, the side from the UniBond League premier division advanced to the third round, when they held West Ham United until a late goal by John Harrison ended their wonderful run. At Oakwell yesterday, they began to dream again before another late goal made them focus a little harder on a first-round replay a week tomorrow.
Emley should have beaten their Yorkshire rivals, who stand second in the Nationwide League third division. Rotherham United laboured and the lead that Emley held for 65 minutes could have been extended.
Central to the outcome was Michael Reynolds, the Emley winger, who was a constant tormentor. When his opponents could not contain him, they resorted to foul means. Three of the visitors were booked for late tackles on him.
Reynolds created the Emley goal after ten minutes, cutting across the area and playing a simple pass to Simon Bam-

Birmingham put to shame by poor relations

Birmingham City.....0
Oxford United.....1
By David Powell

THE upsets were not confined to the FA Cup. Oxford United, who famously once reached the quarter-finals as a fourth-division club, registered an act of giant-killing within the Nationwide League first division, the surprise of the day outside the competition for the old trophy.
Oxford celebrated as they though they were Bedlington Terriers. Coaches embraced on the touchline, substitutes rushed on to the pitch to congratulate those who had performed so magnificently. Oxford had split ink on the form book and sneered at the respective finances of the clubs.
The surprise was not just that Oxford, without a victory in seven league matches, had won away to a Birmingham City team unbeaten in eight. But that they should have done so against a background

Birmingham put to shame by poor relations

stand, nearly completed, have co-owners who are said to be worth some £400 million between them, have a manager who has spent £12 million on players — though he has recruited £6 million — and had hit a rich vein of form. This was third in the table against second from bottom.
On match-day morning, David Sullivan, one of Birmingham's co-owners, was quoted as saying that the team was the best he had seen at the club. By late afternoon, Francis was talking of changes. "It is starting to become a problem at home," he said. "It is up to me to come up with a formula that will improve it."
"There is only one of two things I can do — consider

Lee manages to enhance his job prospects

Norwich City.....0
Wolverhampton W.....0
By Keith Pike

IT IS normally the caretaker's lot to dress down, lock the broom cupboard and keep the place tidy until the new man arrives to sweep clean, but Colin Lee's expensive suit and loftier ambitions tell a different tale. He has been left the keys to the manager's office and likes the swirl of his chair. He will not easily be stripped of his new-found power.
With his miniature monicker and brief CV, Lee is hardly the "big name" that Wolverhampton Wanderers initially had in mind when they persuaded Mark McGhee that leaving by mutual consent was a more lucrative option than being shown the door. But it is surely growing on a club for whom the term "sleeping giant" scarcely does justice. Comatoses, more like.
Yet, two days after the eparture of McGhee, Wolves won

ters
ible



Seventies recalled as lovely legs hit their stride

England expects and all that — but the difficult question is always to know where one's duty lies. So there I sat, zapper in hand on a Saturday afternoon, debating the question of patriotism. Two rugby matches demanded the attention of any reasonably patriotic person, but both started at 3pm. Which to watch?

The choice was either England stuffing The Netherlands or South Africa stuffing Wales. Where was the greater satisfaction: to go with the stuffer or the stuffer? In the end, I had a debate and reached a committee decision: I would watch the first half of Wales v South Africa and the second half of England v The

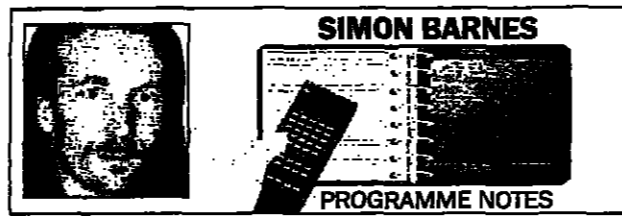
Netherlands. This turned out to be one of the week's better decisions.

Watching Wales lose at rugby union has been one of sport's minor sporting pleasures for years. The taste of Welsh defeat has never staled for me, every morsel doused with the Tabasco of the Welsh triumphalism of the Seventies. The acute pain felt in the Principality at this falling-off can hardly fail to affect a right-thinking English person. It sets you up for the whole day. I offered my guest even money and a 30-point start to Wales and found no taker. So I settled back to an afternoon of blow-outs. But then — do you know, a rugby union match broke out? It was a rather won-

derful afternoon. Let England go hang. Blow-outs are bad sport and are bad for sport. The United States can teach the Welsh a thing or two about triumphalism, but even the rednecks (that sub-species of *Homo americanus* with the family tree that does not fork) grew weary of watching the Olympic basketball Dream Team winning every game by 50 points.

South Africa were supposed to be the best rugby union team in the world and Wales are emphatically second division. And the god of rugby union favours the big battalions to an extent undreamed of in, say, football.

"Wales with a mountain to climb," Bill McLaren said;



don't know how he thinks of 'em, do you? So then Wales scored a try: skimming up the North Face on skates. Not just a try: it was a try that reminded me of — well, Wales. The Welsh team of the Seventies. "Oh, Barry John, he's got a lovely pair of legs, that boy." I can't for the life of me remember whether it was Bill or Cliff Morgan who said that. It sounds as believable in a

Welsh as in a Scottish accent. But all those Welsh boys all seemed to have lovely pairs of legs in that tumultuous opening half-hour. It is all very well getting rugby players to try things — you know, passing the ball, running with it and so on — but having them bring it off is another matter altogether.

You can have the best players in the world in terms of

speed, handling ability and so on, but without belief, they are sounding brasses and tinkling cymbals.

Without individual and corporate self-certainty, skill is a mere nothing. But Wales played with both these things and it was a wonder to behold.

So much so that I kept in touch with the England game with the merest touch of the zapper. Oh, I say, 47-0 at half-time. Every time I zapped, it was a try. I am not a redneck. I switched back. Wales against South Africa does sound like a Satan v Beelzebub situation — I hope you both lose, as Bill Sharkey once said — but this was sport. And very good sport indeed.

And very good sport is bet-

ter than patriotism any day. The game turned as South Africa were given a penalty try. Neither Bill nor his oppo, Eddie Butler, attempted to explain why. This was a curious oversight, but then no one understands the rules of rugby union.

Zap back. Yawn yawn. England score a century. What on earth was the point of this game? If it was to feed the conceit that rugby union is a global game, it was a dreadful failure. This England v The Netherlands game was a mismatch on the grand scale: 110 points. Pointless.

Back to the real match. I knew Wales would lose it. I admit it: I added my will to the will of the province of West Brit-

ain, but I knew they would never quite manage it. South Africa always "seem to get stronger as the match goes on". In other words, they are fit.

The Welsh have never been famous for grace in defeat, and Eddie — not unWelsh — came up with a real beauty. "I know we're not supposed to mention such things," he said, or rather blurted, "but the streaker..."

The streaker was the reason that Wales lost. It took three minutes to get him off the pitch and that, Butler said, caused Wales to lose their momentum. Wales lead 20-17. Nude chappie does his stuff. Wales lose 28-20. Nice one, Eddie. You can't argue with facts like that.

'As we all learn, it is generally the offender rather than the victim who cannot forgive'

Resurfacing of old flame draws fiery response

Should a woman take offence if her boyfriend likens her to George Graham? Few hypothetical questions lend themselves to such earnest debate. I find. In the film of *Fever Pitch*, of course, where this moral stumper first arose, one was rather shocked to hear it, since the leading man was clearly casting about for a nice way to say that his girlfriend was a spit for Mrs Thatcher. Stubborn, joyless, thrifty, scary and satisfied with tedium — such was his girlfriend's implied catalogue of qualities. Lucky the poor woman knew so little about football, or she'd have drawn back a fist and knocked him down.

But, since then, people have suggested that it might have been a compliment, since Arsenal really loved George Graham. The fans revered him and relied on him. He was very, very successful and not unattractive. Even on the face of it, the comparison was obviously more of a flip than a woman than, say: "You know who you remind me of? What's his name? Oh yes, Gordon Strachan!" No girlfriend on earth would put up with that sort of talk, even if the chap was noticing only an innocent resemblance of ankle or pigmentation.

Watching Gorgeous George stroll back into Highbury on Saturday as manager of Tottenham Hotspur, Arsenal's arch rivals, was as intriguing for an onlooker as it was morally over-complicated for the fans. "Boo," they said automatically, as he climbed down from the visitors' coach. "Judas! Judas! Judas!"

Outrage and a sense of rejection stirred in the farthest corner of their collective memory. Because didn't he used to be their girlfriend? How could he possibly go out with those other bitches? Why had he left Highbury anyway? If only they could remember!

The trouble was, reflex scriptural abuse simply didn't cover this situation and the cries of "Judas!" during the match were rightly faltering and half-hearted. Put it this way: when you've thrown out someone you love and then see them with a new partner (a rival from next door, as it happens, fall-

ing on hard times), the feelings are generally more subtle — especially if, since they left, you've done spectacularly well for yourself with an exotic Gallic partner who is the envy of all your mates.

In such circumstances, you see, you do not normally say "Judas!" You say brightly instead: "Gosh, you look well!" — while wrestling internally with nostalgia, guilt and grief. Had Arsenal supporters spent more time reading the painful bits in Jane Austen, they would know this. "You look well, and you haven't changed a bit," you say, bravely, to the once-beloved. "I've

er getting drunk do you start on the difficult stuff, such as: "Did you ever miss me?" and: "How could you do it? Take that money and ruin everything? We were so happy. Weren't we? Sniff. Weren't we?"

This being football, however, Jane Austen has very little impact on the manner of proceedings and on Saturday we had to settle for the wholly inadequate chant of "Judas!" — met in turn by an enigmatic, all-purpose wink from George Graham.

Regrettably, I am beginning to understand what Matthew Parris meant when he once referred to the debased sensibilities of football. While a wink from anyone else, the question is still open: what does it mean? Admission? Defiance? Conspiratorial nudge? Mind your own business? Only one thing is clear. Once you've been winked by George Graham — you probably stay winked.

Happily, Graham had quite a lot to wink about on Saturday. One never wants to lose face in front of old flames and he didn't. In fact, his Tottenham team is already responding so well to his astringent management that we all quite forgot to laugh at Ramon Vega, which is often one's only motive for turning up.

The match lived up to every dire Graham-ish expectation. It was fervid and frustrating: it was gung-ho and goalless; and David Ginola was not allowed to play, for fear of importing unwelcome maverick flair.

Amid a roar of encouraging cheers, Arsenal had all the energetic possession in midfield and made all the chances, but unfailingly bounced off a negative force-field whenever they approached the goal. Ray Parlour was in questionable form, but Emmanuel Petit was fabulous and Arsenal deserved more. They were never going to get it, though, especially with Dennis Bergkamp injured.

I hear *You Knocking* ought to be Graham's theme song, if it isn't already. You can imagine him singing it in the bath after match-

es. "I hear you knocking (ooh-bi-wala, ooh-bi-wala). But you can't come in." At his press conference, Graham was asked whether it "hurt" to hear his old supporter yelling the J-word. He said: "Nah, not at all, no problem. Players always get it when they go back to their old clubs." Asked whether he

would be sharing a drink with the directors who dismissed him, Graham pointedly changed the subject. I think he believes that he was hard done by when he was sacked for the bung, but there's a faint chance that he also feels guilty. As we all learn sooner or later, it is generally the offender rather than

the victim who cannot forgive. Whether the supporters got together before the match and tried out a chant that went: "Lovely coat, George, been keeping well, then?" I don't know. It would be pleasant to think so; pleasant also to imagine them trying: "Did you hear about us winning the Double? Nice to have you back in the area, we should do this more often."

Alas, I suspect the Judas thing was the only option that came to mind. Short and memorable, it packs a message and, being something of an overstatement, it's also terribly easy to shrug off and forget about.



lynne TRUSS

been following your career, of course. What do you think of the old place? Yes, we're still here! We were always a bit boring, though, weren't we? Ha, ha — oops, sorry. We've been trying to move, actually, but you wouldn't believe the prices. You look really great, I'm so pleased. It was marvellous the way you bounced back, I must say.

And it goes on like this. Saying nothing, but saying so much. "That's a very nice coat, did you get it up north somewhere? Where is it you've been staying again? Oh, I once spent an afternoon in Leeds. I wish I'd known, I'd have looked you up!" And so on. Only if you then spend an evening togeth-



Sign of the times: Graham is left in no doubt as to the feelings of sections of the Highbury crowd, but was dismissive of their actions

er would be sharing a drink with the directors who dismissed him, Graham pointedly changed the subject. I think he believes that he was hard done by when he was sacked for the bung, but there's a faint chance that he also feels guilty. As we all learn sooner or later, it is generally the offender rather than

the victim who cannot forgive. Whether the supporters got together before the match and tried out a chant that went: "Lovely coat, George, been keeping well, then?" I don't know. It would be pleasant to think so; pleasant also to imagine them trying: "Did you hear about us winning the Double? Nice to have you back in the area, we should do this more often."

Alas, I suspect the Judas thing was the only option that came to mind. Short and memorable, it packs a message and, being something of an overstatement, it's also terribly easy to shrug off and forget about.

Alas, I suspect the Judas thing was the only option that came to mind. Short and memorable, it packs a message and, being something of an overstatement, it's also terribly easy to shrug off and forget about.

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CHANGING TIMES

SPORTS LETTERS

Generosity to be emulated

From Mr Collin Rossini

Sir, In a footballing world of unscrupulous fat cat reality, how heartening it is to find a wonderful exception.

Real Mallorca, the Spanish league leaders, donated all £250,000 in gate receipts from their home game against Villarreal to the disaster relief fund for victims of the Central American hurricane.

The world may be a round ball to football fans, but it is a real place of mire and ugliness for many. What a gesture it would be for the game's tainted image if FA Carling Premiership clubs donated similar sums — but then pigs or fat cats might fly!

Yours,
COLLIN ROSSINI,
1a Steele House,
Harwich,
Essex,
CO12 3PN.

Yellow medicine

From Mr Geoffrey Silman

Sir, There seems to be a simple answer to Dennis Bergkamp's flying phobia in relation to the trip to Athens in the European

Financial plight of small football clubs

From Mr Bob Russell, MP for Colchester (Liberal Democrat)

Sir, I write to express my displeasure at the article by Mark Hodgkinson (November 7) in which he described my team, Colchester United, as the "glamour-ghouls of football".

Mr Hodgkinson would be doing a big service to professional football — and, in particular, many of the smaller clubs — if he were to write an article about how they are struggling to survive in an era when football has never had so much money, but because the game is controlled by a handful of greedy clubs, the gap between the haves and the have-nots is widening by the day.

The football authorities are failing the great majority of the nation's clubs. The Government has refused to help — only last week, my request in the House of Commons that Parliament should act where football authorities have failed and use the taxation system to redistribute money more fairly was rejected.

With the football authorities and Government ignoring the wider interests of the professional game, it is up to people like Mr Hodgkinson to draw attention to the serious situation that threatens the very existence of many smaller clubs.

Yours sincerely,
BOB RUSSELL,
Corporate House, Queen Street,
Colchester CO1 2PG.

Cup Champions' League

at the beginning of December. If he were to be booked in the match at Wembley against Lens on November 25, he would be banned from the Greek match.

Whilst I hesitate to recommend such a deliberate ploy, I seem to recall that when he was in sensational form during the early months of last season, he received regular bookings. His subdued performance this season have coincided with not a single yellow card in FA Carling Premiership matches this season. This seems to me to be more than a coincidence. After all, he was booked

against Dynamo Kiev at Wembley and scored.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY N. SILMAN,
Osprey House,
78 Wigmore Street,
W1H 9DQ.

Twin towers

From Mr Peter Hazell

Sir, For several years, Graham Kelly has been the chief executive of the Football Association, yet his statement that destroying Wembley stadium's twin towers is "not controversial" and they are "not significant" as part of a new stadium (report, November 9) displays an astonishing level of ignorance of the game's traditions and the feelings of the vast majority of football fans (and, I imagine, players) in this country and worldwide.

Yours faithfully,
PETER HAZELL,
28 Artillery Street,
Colchester, CO1 2JL,
peter.c.hazell@bt.com

Sports letters, with daytime telephone number, may be faxed to 0171-782 5211. E-mail, including a postal address, should be sent to: sport.letters@the-times.co.uk

This week in THE TIMES

Tomorrow
Champion jockey Tony McCoy faces a lengthy ban for excessive use of the whip

Wednesday
Glenn Hoddle (above) has the chance to experiment with his England team against the Czech Republic at Wembley

Friday
The Ashes series begins overnight with the first Test match between Australia and England at Brisbane

Saturday
Football Saturday: the biggest and best guide to the weekend including the Premiership match-by-match preview, Oliver Holt, Robert Elms and Lynne Truss

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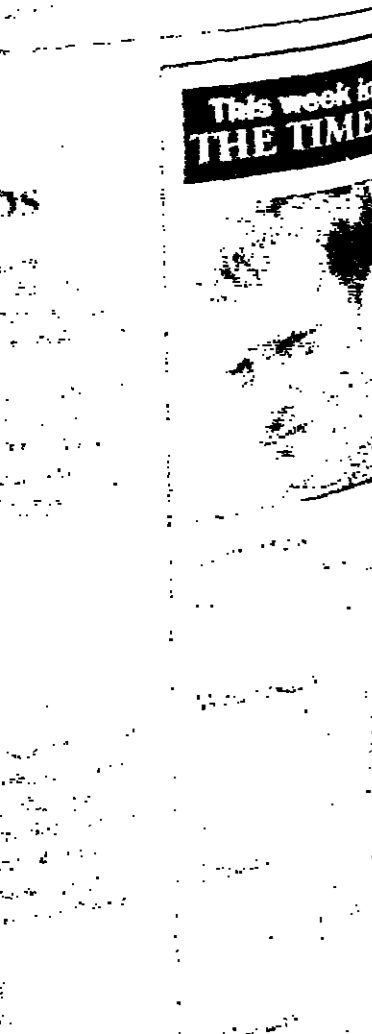
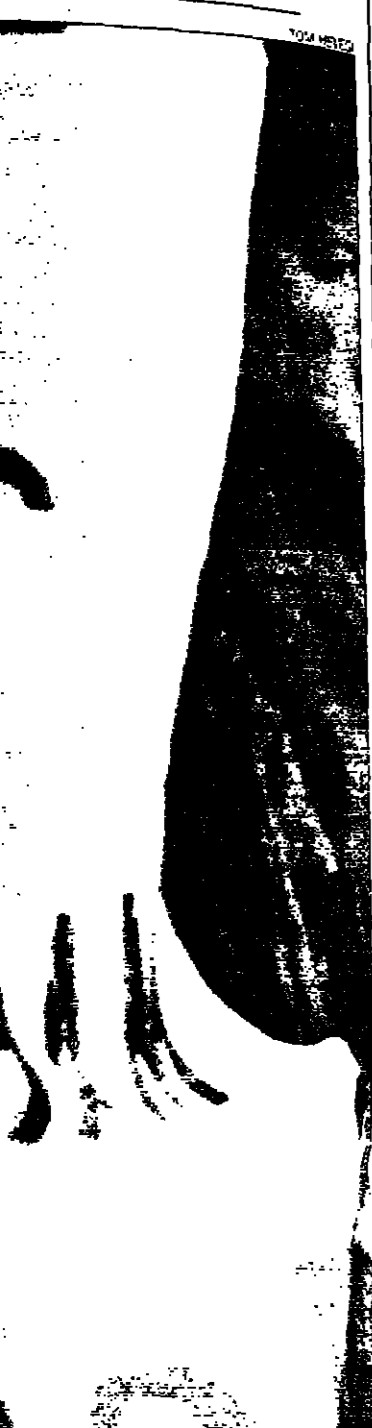
THE TIMES

Real Price of Success

Beaming continues

day, coach... stride... not forgive'

not forgive'



abs

FOOTBALL

Real pay high price for lack of Suker punch

Jean-Marc Bosman continues to have much to answer for in the changing patterns of European football...

Steve McManaman will be particularly interested in the stunning victory by Celta Vigo over Real Madrid...

Of course, the scorers were overseas players, people with neither respect nor knowledge of the rites of passage in Spanish football history...

As a result, Celta, unbeaten this season, leapfrogged over Real in the Spanish league table...

It is one of the sillier compromises in Fifa rules that players or their licensed agents can begin negotiating the next move on January 1...



ROB HUGHES

Overseas View

clubs, were biding their time to entice McManaman, to lure his rare ability to run at retreating defences...

It is nothing unusual for Sanz. He has little respect for authority and the ultimate belief that Real, the European champions, must go forward at all costs...

Gus Hiddink, the latest coach at the Bernabéu, has realised that his inheritance in the Real playing staff is top-heavy with forwards and native...

And what of Celta? They, of course, stand in the way of Liverpool regaining self-respect through the European route...

players, 13 of them from no less than eight foreign countries.

A touch of something Spanish? Oh yes, a heavy one, for in Miguel 'Michel' Salgado, they have the defender recently drafted into the Spain team...

The final word on Real's loss of half a century of omnipotence over Celta involves Suker. He struggles for consistency and to get a place in the line-up and his left foot, the most potent finishing weapon among world-class strikers, erred on Saturday.

During the World Cup, Suker had invoked the name of God for blessing Croatia's campaign and when Manuel Vazquez Montalban, one of Spain's most learned intellectuals, took Suker to task for such sacrilege, the player took months to research and then write his own intellectual response...

As this week the same individuals are recruited for national duty, the Irish, too, have been playing with words. 'Fifa fair play?' Mick McCarthy, the Ireland manager, mused on BBC Radio 5 Live yesterday...

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No way through: Raúl, of Real Madrid, is tackled by Berges, the Celta Vigo captain, in his side's defeat on Saturday

Kanchelskis warms to his task

By PHIL GORDON

MAYBE Andrei Kanchelskis recognises something familiar in the Ibrox air. The Govan tones of his master's voice may only be a memory, but the capricious Ukrainian is picking up the message once more.

Alex Ferguson is the only coach to have coaxed the best out of Kanchelskis. The Manchester United manager's devotion to the work ethic, that was nurtured during his days in the Clyde-side shipyards just a mile from Ibrox, even had the stouthead winger among his disciples for a spell...

record signing, Kanchelskis hitting the winning goal in the 2-1 success against Aberdeen on Saturday.

Two goals in two games, plus a basket of assists, indicate that he is starting to find life under Advocaat's stern regime to his liking.

With such high demands, it seemed unlikely that Kanchelskis, who arrived from Italy with a few more curves than he did when he first came to Britain six years ago, would have been tolerated long at Advocaat, but the Dutchman has imposed his standards on the occasional performer...

own half with the vigour of a Bryan Robson.

The driving run that took him into the Aberdeen penalty area in the 81st minute at Ibrox on Saturday illustrated Kanchelskis's renewed appetite. The left-foot shot should have been saved by Jim Leighton, but Rangers cared little about that.

At the same time as Kanchelskis scored, Celtic conceded a decisive goal to St Johnstone that, in tandem with the Ukrainian, widens the gap between the Old Firm teams to ten points ahead of the derby meeting at Celtic Park next week.

about the scorn that followed his recruitment of Vidar Riseth in September because of the Norwegian's lack of profile. Riseth made a name for himself on Saturday, but not in the way that he or Venglos would have wanted.

Kilmarnock slipped further behind Rangers with a 1-1 draw at Dundee, but the gap would be wider than six points had Jerome Vassille's wonderful volley not cancelled out the damage done by Eddie Annand's opening goal for Dundee.

Motherwell overtook Heart of Midlothian to go fifth with an enthralling 3-2 victory between the two at Fir Park. Owen Coyle scored two goals and John Spencer the other to bring the partnership's haul to seven in four matches.

ICE HOCKEY

Fuyarchuk bemused as injuries pile up

By NORMAN DE MESQUITA

JIM FUYARCHUK, the coach of London Knights, is beginning to wonder what more can happen. Already without Ian Cooper, Debb Carpenter, Kelly Glow and Sorntny Mignacca, he lost yet another player to injury during the home defeat on Saturday by Bracknell Bees.

Jason Campeau, playing in spite of a badly bruised foot, took an elbow to the head and retired early in the first period with concussion. Nick Poole, although dressed for the game, was unwell, leaving Fuyarchuk with only eight fit forwards. The only surprise was that Bracknell, who dominated the game for long spells, took until overtime to win it. London led 1-0 at the end of the first period, 2-1 at the end of the second and 3-1 early in the third. The Bees drew level with just over nine minutes to go and Chris Brant scored his second goal of the evening in the first minute of overtime to secure the win, which took Bracknell into fourth place in the Sekonda Superleague.

The Knights are now seventh, but their next home game is against Newcastle Riverkings, the bottom club, and they must hope for better news about their injured players and a chance to improve their record.

Newcastle scored the only goal of the first period in Nottingham and led 2-0 midway through the game, only to see the Panthers score four times without reply and condemn them to the bottom of the table. The Panthers are another team with injury problems and with Corey Beaulieu ruled out, Mike Blaisdell, their coach, returned to action.

The win took the Panthers into second place, two points behind Manchester Storm, who were beaten for only the second time in the league, 4-3 by Ayr Scottish Eagles. This was another game in which the winners came from behind. Goals by Rick Brelant and Kevin Hoffman gave the Storm a 2-0 lead early in the second period, but it was 3-3 by the second interval and Ryan Kummru scored the only goal of the final period.

SAILING

Beaming MacArthur continues to impress

By EDWARD GORMAN SAILING CORRESPONDENT

THE succession of storms that have afflicted the Route du Rhum fleet for the first week of racing are out of the way as the skippers move on to tackle a huge high-pressure system that promises a new kind of exhaustion as they attempt to tease as much speed from their boats as possible.

The impressive start made by Ellen MacArthur, of Great Britain, on board the Adrian Thompson-designed Open 50, Kingfisher, continues to be one of the features of the race. Now about one-third of the way to the finish at Guadeloupe, MacArthur is still well up in the middle of the faster Open 60s and has overtaken another in the past day or so.

A day of beam-reaching - Kingfisher's fastest point of sail - saw MacArthur overhaul Philippe Monnet in the Open 60, Lunet, a move that promotes her to sixth monohull overall out of 17 starters and thirteenth place in the race as a whole, including the big multihulls that lead the fleet. After 1,700 miles, MacArthur has seven Open 60s astern of her.

her decks rather than crawl and place something on a surface without it ending up in the bilge.

Ahead of Kingfisher, a tight battle for the lead of the monohull fleet is raging between Coville, the experienced Figaro sailor, and Catherine Chabaud, the Vendée Globe veteran, in Whirlpool Europe 2, her new Marc Lombard-designed 60. Yesterday, they were just 15 miles apart as they struggled in light airs with about 2,200 miles still to sail to the finish.

The lighter offwind conditions should see the bigger 60s start to pull away from MacArthur, who, like most competitors, has chosen the shortest great circle route across the Atlantic. One exception is Monnet, who has taken the gamble of heading south in the search of steady trade winds to power him westwards to the Caribbean.

The new overall fleet leader is Alain Gautier, the Frenchman, in Brociliande, a 60-foot trimaran. He had 1,730 miles still to sail yesterday.

BOXING

Lueshing win avoids head blows

By SRIKUMAR SEN BOXING CORRESPONDENT

NEVER before had Kevin Lueshing been involved in such an uneventful contest as when he met Nicky Thurbin at Chesham on Saturday. Usually, the light-middleweight from Beckenham can be relied on to provide moments of explosive action, but there was never much chance of excitement in this contest as Lueshing put a headlock on Thurbin every time the Loughton man rushed in to land a blow.

Dave Parris, the referee, often had to work harder than the boxers, pulling them apart and warning them about holding. Parris even had to penalise Lueshing a point in the eleventh round for holding.

Yet, after lifting the World Boxing Organisation (WBO) inter-continental title on a majority decision, Lueshing explained why he had had to resort to such negative methods - he was afraid of being seriously injured.

Having been told before the bout by the British Boxing Board of Control that his medical condition would have to be monitored after every contest because his brain scan was causing some concern to the neurologists, Lueshing had decided he was not going to take blows to the head if he could help it.

"When they told me I had failed my test, that really hit me. My whole life just flashed in front of me," Lueshing said. "At the back of my mind was the thought: 'What if something happened to me, after Spencer Oliver and Gerald McClellan and all that?' That's why I wasn't going to have a head-to-head with him. I was even frightened of clashing heads."

Lueshing now faces the daunting prospect of challenging Harry Simon, of South Africa, the WBO champion. In view of the fact that Lueshing has not met anybody with the kind of power that Simon carries, it is just as well that the Board has decided to monitor his progress bout by bout.



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ROWING

Underdogs spring surprise on Searles

By Mike Rosewell

GREAT BRITAIN squad crews took the top two places in the Fellers Fours Head from Mortlake to Putney on Saturday, although not in the expected order. The favourites for the quadruple sculls were the heavyweight Kingston/Molesley combination of Greg and Jonny Searles, partnered by the country's leading double of Colin Greenaway and Simon Goodbrand. Starting third, they overhauled the 1997 winners — a German quartet from Mainz — and came off the water pleased with both the rhythm and steering of Greg Searles.

However, among the new entries was a young British lightweight quad that included three 1998 internationals — Tom Middleton, Tim Male and Matthew Beechey — and Ian Watson, the spare man in the Britain squad this year. They scythed through slower club crews and were given the verdict over their heavyweight opponents by 0.3sec.

The world champion coxless four of Steve Redgrave, Matthew Pinsent and James Cracknell, with Fred Scarlett substituting for the injured Tim Foster, retained the coxless four title, but only just. The enforced move of Redgrave from the No 2 to No 3 seat did not make his steering duties easier.

Only four quad sculls bettered their time, but they were just 1sec ahead of the leading Cambridge crew. The Leander coxed four, all of whom are present internationals, won their class by 3sec from a Molesley/Leander crew of former Britain internationals.

Britain's international women convincingly took their main classes. The top quad included Miriam Batten and Gillian Lindsay, both of whom are reigning world champions and who were joined by Guin Batten and Elise Laverick.

Photograph, page 43

RUGBY LEAGUE: DROPPED GOAL IN FINAL SECONDS SAVES BRITAIN'S FACE BUT MERELY PAPERS OVER THE CRACKS

Smith times rescue to perfection

Great Britain23
New Zealand.....23

By Christopher Irvine

NATURALLY, it involved the last kick of the match, but a cosmetic draw cannot camouflage the cracks that were evident throughout the Lincoln Finance series. At least Great Britain's reacquaintance with pride and self-belief at Watford on Saturday night prevented the humiliation of a first 3-0 whitewash by New Zealand on English soil.

Whereas Britain got their timing hopelessly awry at Huddersfield, where they paid for not playing to the referee's half-time whistle, and again at Bolton, where their watches packed up altogether in the second half, Tony Smith managed to drop a priceless goal and level the score with the clock run down but the ball still in play.

Not only had Smith never dropped a goal in his life, the joke is that he has two wooden legs, yet the Wigan scrum half's hand-eye combination and right foot were inch-perfect. In addition, it was his try with two minutes left and Andy Farrell's conversion that had dragged Britain back to within a point of a New Zealand side with history on their minds and their eye off the ball.

It was entirely appropriate that Smith's judgment saved Britain's face, just as the jaws of defeat were clamping shut. There have been more naturally-gifted No 7s, but few with his resolve, which was manifested even in the earlier losses.

"He's been a revelation for us. He's learned and been willing to push other players, which he's never done before, so that bodes well for the future," Andy Goodway, the Britain coach, said.

For the moment, nobody is pretending that the foundations are anything like in place. New Zealand let a 22-10 lead slip, but still ended as the only unbeaten touring Kiwi side in 90 years. If Goodway felt six days was insufficient preparation for a series, wait until next October, when the Britain party is expected to



O'Connor, the Britain prop, tries to break through the New Zealand defence. Photograph: Stefan Rousseau

leave for Australia a day after the JJB Super League Grand Final.

Players who also imagined that 1998 was an arduous enough season must get used to a bigger workload next year. While clubs call the tune and promulgate the barmy theory that more matches means better, the international bolted on to the season will continue

to be an after-thought. It is a damaging imbalance. Without the profile generated at international level, the domestic game loses out.

With midweek fixtures back on the agenda and little or no obvious room to squeeze in representative competition, the constraints of the job for Goodway look to be tightening. "With the Rugby Football

League, we'll be planning a training programme and doing what we need to do to help us along. We'll get co-operation from clubs if we give them notice. We feel there's a lot more to come," he said.

Goodway's optimism is well-founded, on the basis of individual performances on Saturday. Terry Newson and Sean Long stepped into the

breach and, on their full debuts, supplied Britain with the momentum around the rucks and improvisation to help run the New Zealand forwards around and catch them on the back foot. It is a ploy that Australia used to beat New Zealand last month.

Goodway singled out Newson for an honorary mention. Exhaustion forced the hooker

off early in the second half and Britain's shape and cohesion was restored only with his return, in harness with Long's sniping runs and walz through the New Zealand defence, which began the recovery in the 66th minute.

Like Iestyn Harris, from whom Long took over at stand-off half, Goodway looked to have a blind spot with the St Helens player, until injury forced his hand. Yet the most makeshift side summoned the necessary spirit after New Zealand had run riot, just as they had done at Bolton.

Again, Britain held an eight-point lead at the interval and blew it, after Jason Robinson became the first Britain player to score a try in all three matches against New Zealand and Australia — albeit in a losing cause in successive series. With Sculthorpe and Senior in the sin-bin at the start of the second period, the home side were slit open by three sumptuous tries in 20 minutes by Robbie and Henry Paul, all laid on by Stacey Jones.

Not only were Britain not strong and powerful enough up front, nobody held a candle to Jones's creative genius. His dropped goal to take New Zealand 23-16 clear looked to be the *denouement* of another *tour de force*. Yet everyone reckoned without Smith, whose dropped goal — "fortunately, I'd no time to think," he said — ended the season on a more upbeat note than it would have done if his aim had been askew.

SCORES: Great Britain: Tries: Robinson, Long, Smith; Goals: Farrell (5). Dropped goal: Smith. New Zealand: Tries: R Paul (3), H Paul; Goals: Halgan (5). Dropped goal: Jones. GREAT BRITAIN: K Radlinski (Wigan Warriors), J Robinson (Wigan Warriors), G Connolly (Wigan Warriors), K Senior (Sheffield Eagles), F Cummings (Leeds Rhinos), S Long (St Helens), A Smith (Wigan Warriors), T O'Connor (Wigan Warriors), T Newson (Leeds Rhinos), D Loughton (Sheffield Eagles), C Joynt (St Helens), F Sculthorpe (St Helens), A Farrell (Wigan Warriors). Substitutes: D Flaherty (Leeds Rhinos), S Haughton (Wigan Warriors), M Forshaw (Bradford Bulls), L Gilmore (Wigan Warriors).

NEW ZEALAND: R Burnett (Sydney City), S Hoppe (Auckland Warriors), K Iro (St Helens), R Will (Cardiff Rugby), D Halligan (Canterbury Bulldogs), R Paul (Bradford Bulls), S Jones (Auckland Warriors), J Vagstad (Auckland Warriors), S Easi (Auckland Warriors), G Pongia (Auckland Warriors), S Kearney (Auckland Warriors), J McCrae (Parramatta), L Sween (Auckland Warriors). Substitutes: H Paul (Bradford Bulls), C Smith (Warrington), N Cayless (Parramatta), A Puleston (Warrington). Referee: W Harrison (Australia).

Workload increases for players next year

By Christopher Irvine

THE argument from coaches and players that quality should come before quantity has been lost in a return next year to the pre-summer days of 30 regular fixtures in an expanded 14-team JJB Super League, which will also start a month earlier, on March 5. Clubs will play an additional seven matches next season before the top-five play-offs, including a maximum of three in midweek. Twelve Wednesdays have been set aside in order that the domestic season can finish sooner, on October 9, to allow Great Britain to take part in a three-nation series with Australia and New Zealand in the southern hemisphere.

The 14 teams will meet each other on a home and away basis and then the first four rounds of matches, which deliberately include some of the more attractive fixtures, will be repeated to make up the figure of 30 that the clubs see as necessary to improve their ability to generate income and which they feel that full-time players can handle without being overplayed.

It means Wigan Warriors, the champions, and Leeds Rhinos, the runners-up last season, will meet one another three times, as will Wigan and St Helens and Leeds and Bradford Bulls. Wigan open the season against Hull Sharks in a televised match on March 5 and Gateshead Thunder, the new club, will entertain Leeds Rhinos two days later. Wakefield Trinity, the first division champions, have a first match away to Castleford Tigers.

1999 SEASON OPENING FIXTURES: JJB Super League: March 5: Wigan Warriors v Hull Sharks; March 7: Gateshead Thunder v Leeds Rhinos; Bradford Bulls v Sheffield Eagles; Castleford Tigers v Wakefield Trinity; Halifax Blue Sox v Warrington Wolves; London Broncos v Huddersfield Giants; Salford Reds v St Helens. Live television coverage on Sky Sports.

TOP-FIVE PLAY-OFFS: Sept 17-19: Elimination and qualifying play-offs; Sept 24-26: Elimination and qualifying semi-finals; Oct 2: Final; October 9: Grand Final (at Trafford).

THE TIMES

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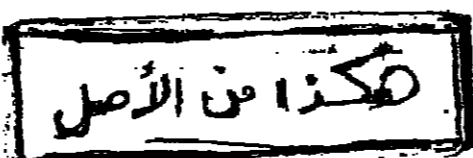
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CHANGING TIMES



Age no barrier to walking tall

Anna Foster on an addictive activity that has become essential to many athletes in their twilight years



While most sports enthusiasts of a certain age expect to do no more than reach for their Santogen and settle down to watch Grandstand, Anne von Bismarck has other ideas. The 71-year-old is a champion race walker, who likes nothing better than a punishing 20-kilometre road race. "I don't think about my age," she said. "Yes, it's painful, but I just push myself on."

Von Bismarck endures the intensive training schedule of an athlete 30 years younger, but her obsession with race walking has brought her European championship gold medals for veterans at five and ten kilometres, as well as the world veteran championships gold at 20 kilometres. While most men and women give up their chosen sport in their middle years, race walkers compete vigorously into their 70s and 80s. Apart from bowls and, perhaps, swimming, there is no sport that offers such competitive recreation for veterans.

Indeed, they sometimes outclass the youngsters. At the Commonwealth Games, two members of the Great Britain team were veterans: Chris Maddocks, 41, came fifth in the men's 20 kilometres and Kim Braznell, 42, finished eighth in the women's ten kilometres.

Peter Cassidy, the general secretary of the Race Walking Association (RWA), says that the sport is thriving among veterans, with a packed annual calendar of events. It takes just one hour to learn the technique and it offers the chance to get fit without the risk of injury. "If you walk with a poor technique, you won't go fast, but you won't pull a muscle either," he said.

Some race walkers transfer from other sports because of injury. Cath Reader was a half-marathon runner before



Von Bismarck, described as the fastest waitress in the world by her employer, trains on the beach at Bournemouth after work

at 34, she damaged her knees. In hospital, she was devastated to be told that she would never be able to run again. "I'm very competitive and, while I recovered, I went to see a road race," she said. "I learnt the basics and entered the national veteran 10k race walking championship and won." Reader, now 43, set up the Eastern Veterans' League and has won world and European titles. "It's not a sport for crocks, it's a whole body workout," she said.

Race walking demands time and money. Von Bismarck must travel to an Essex club to train because clubs near Bournemouth, where she lives, do not offer race walking. She took a job as a silver service waitress at the Swallow Highcliff Hotel in Bournemouth four years ago to fund her travel costs. Initially, the hotel was sceptical because of her age, until she explained

that she needed the money for her sport. Lawder Smith, the hotel's general manager, describes her as "the fastest waitress in the world". Von Bismarck went to Italy for the European championships in September and won the five kilometres track race and the ten kilometres road race. Mitchell believes that older people like race walking because they are patient. "Young people like to get things over with," he said. While the veterans are thriving, race walking in general is in decline. The heyday of the sport ran from the Thirties to the Tokyo Olympic Games in 1964, where Ken Matthews, from Great Britain, won gold in the 20 kilometres road race and Paul Nihill, also from Britain, won silver in the 50 kilometres event. Since then, though, jogging, cycling and swimming have outstripped race walking as general fitness sports.

Cassidy thinks that the sport has an image problem. While jogging flatters the figure, race walking, with its hip-wiggling gait, looks peculiar. A reader's letter to a recent issue of *Athletics Weekly* described the "bizarre sight of a field of 20-odd young women bobbing up and down around the track in a manner suggestive of constipated plastic ducks in a funfair shooting gallery". But that does not deter the obsessed. Cath Reader said: "People who insult you are usually fat and smoking, so I think: 'Blow you.'" Race walkers are also aware that the strength of the sport among veterans tends to rely on nostalgia for the past and a failure to look forward. Why, for example, is there no race walking section in the London Marathon, unlike the New York Marathon? Cassidy says that "we have lost opportunities to put race walking in the shop window". Not surprisingly, there are no big commercial sponsors, although the RWA is examining ways in which it could attract sponsorship. The RWA needs to boost its profile, but administration lacks appeal when you can compete into your 80s.

While the sport may be in its twilight years, those participants who continue to taunt Father Time show no signs of fading. Mitchell intends to carry on beyond 85 and Von Bismarck has no intention of giving up. She said: "I don't know whether I'll stay as good as I am, but it doesn't matter. I just go for every title that's going."

FACT BOX

Race walking is a club-based sport. Coverage is patchy, but it is strong in Essex, Sussex, Surrey, the West Midlands, Leicester, Isle of Man, Guernsey and Yorkshire. About 100 clubs are affiliated to the Race Walking Association (RWA). Club membership costs between £15 and £25.

The RWA offers an introductory package that includes a booklet on how to start training, a fixture list and details of local clubs. Start-up costs are low: all you need are trainers and a tracksuit.

The Race Walking Association can be contacted at Huffers, Hears Lane, Shenfield, Brentwood, Essex CM15 0SF (Tel: 01277 220687).

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Wilkinson

Stirring Wembley encounter provides telling contrast to serious mismatch at Huddersfield



Garvey, one of the South Africa props, finds himself badly outnumbered by Wyatt, left, Craig Quinell and Anthony during one particularly heated passage of play

Wales.....20
South Africa.....28

BY GERALD DAVIES

Wales lament slip from path of glory

LIFTING their game to hitherto unexpected heights of commitment and competitiveness and maintaining their momentum to the very last, Wales took South Africa close to their first defeat in 15 international matches at Wembley on Saturday. It was an extraordinary performance by a team that, when they last met the world champions in the summer, had returned humiliated from the Loftus Versfeld stadium in Pretoria, where a mere four points had denied the Springboks a century.

minute, will not assuage their sharp and, as they will find in years to come, eternal frustration. They knew, once they reached the safe haven of their dressing-room, where the silence would be blighted only by gasps of blighted hopes and wretched disappointment, that this was a game they could and should have won.

But it was not enough. Worse, at the core of the South Africa victory was a highly dubious piece of refereeing. Whatever strenuous claims were made to the contrary, Stuart Dickinson's decision to award a penalty try in the 32nd minute of the first half was disturbingly questionable.

DETAILS FROM WEMBLEY

WALSLEY: Try: Thomas (20m). Penalty goals: Jenkins (51.4, 20.24, 41.50) South Africa: Try: Pennington (52). Van der Westhuizen (34). Venter (21). Conversion: Smith 2. Penalty goals: Smith 3 (48, 78, 89).

Scotland fail to resolve problems behind scrum

Scotland XV.....8
New Zealand Maoris.....24

BY ALASDAIR REID

SCOTLAND supporters have watched more calamitous performances than this in pre-Christmas internationals, but it was small consolation that this latest humbling by a side from the southern hemisphere was not strewn with errors and gaffes. Instead, they endured a depressingly drab match played in sheets of rain that swept across Murrayfield as remorselessly as the New Zealand Maoris ground out their win.

turnout served only to oil the coals of Scottish rugby's rumour mill, with speculation that Duncan Paterson, the Scottish Rugby Union's executive chairman, will step down in the near future. The reports were, however, denied by Bill Watson, the chief executive. Jim Telfer, the Scotland coach, may try to be indifferent to such affairs, but he could hardly deny that his side were outplayed by the Maoris. The forwards competed adequately, but there was a lack of conviction behind the scrum, as there had been on the summer tour to Australia.

France falter before meeting Australia

FRANCE, warming up for their match against Australia next week, failed to impress in Nantes on Saturday as they beat Argentina 34-14. France, who twice beat the Pumas earlier this year, scored five tries to one, but yesterday, without the injured Thomas Castaignède, at fly half, and Christian Califano, the prop, they failed to shine behind the scrum, dropping passes, and struggled throughout to dominate the combative Argentina pack.

Pierre Villepreux, the joint-coach of France, remained optimistic about the Australian confrontation, however. "It will be an entirely different game, as the Australians like to play the ball around, whereas the Argentinians prefer to keep the ball tight," Villepreux said. One of the plus points to come out of the game was the performance of Stéphane Glas, the centre. "Two tries is great in the first international of the season for me, but we'll have to play a lot better next week and not drop the ball so often, though defensively we held up well," Glas said.

Ireland hint at limitations as Georgia are overrun

Ireland.....70
Georgia.....0

FROM MARK SOUSTER IN DUBLIN

AFTER another embarrassing international mismatch, one that, in its own way, exposed Ireland's limitations as much as it did those of Georgia, is it not time for Rugby World Cup (RWC) to consider a tiered tournament that takes account of the inexperience and vulnerability of emerging countries and groups them accordingly?

make more sense in the interim. It would allow minnows to find their level and improve through meaningful competition. Georgia played their hearts out, tackling and defending stoutly for 50 minutes before running out of steam, but they offered nothing more. Not once did they threaten the Ireland line.



Elwood: failed to create space for Ireland backs

Then again, Georgia did not help themselves by resting 11 players ahead of their meeting with Romania on Wednesday, so, in that sense, it is difficult to gauge the real standard of their rugby. That game will almost certainly decide which of the two countries qualifies automatically for the finals next year and which has to endure the lottery of the repechage. The decision by Claude Saurat, the coach, while understandable in the circumstances, made a mockery of the organisers' intentions. Is there a case for considering sanctions for playing a deliberately under-strength side?

Dutch pride undented by England's record haul

England.....110
The Netherlands.....0

BY DAVID HANDS RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

EVEN in a professional world, there remains room for true emotion: there were tears in the eyes of The Netherlands players as they left the McAlpine Stadium in Huddersfield, not because they had conceded a cricket score in a rugby match but because they had stood toe-to-toe with England, who gave the game to the world, and had not disgraced themselves.

levels, with the strongest teams seeded direct to the finals, the weaker playing bowl or shield tournaments concurrently and doing away with the expensive travels that the Dutch will undertake in the repechages under the present structure. The match on Saturday, sponsored by Lloyds TSB, rendered null and void previous scoring records. Before then, England had not scored more than 60 points in an international, a mark they passed with Paul Grayson's eighth conversion. The Northampton fly half's precise kicking, many from near the touchline, earned him 30 points and a place alongside Rob Andrew (against Canada in 1994) in the record books.

Neil Back matched Guscott try for try and would have joined Rory Underwood (1999) and "Dan" Lambert (1907) on five had he not generously given Dan Luger a debut try with no defender in sight. "Three were team tries," Back said, "and I was just the beneficiary of good play from the others. As long as the team wins and I'm in it, that's all that counts." While none of the England party will attach more importance than it merits to the scoreline, it was nonetheless a significant occasion for those hitherto on the fringe. Luger, the Harlequins wing, should have made more of his chances while Martin Corry did everything that he was chosen for at No.8. "There

Results and tables.....Page 43

was a massive buzz to pulling on the England shirt again," Corry said. "Getting 'up' for the game was no problem." Woodward will not determine until Thursday the starting XV to play Italy, who meet the Dutch on Wednesday evening, and he will be wise not to look further than that game. As it was, there were surely some sharp words at the interval after a 16-minute spell when England, having scored six tries, meandered. After the break, they cleared the rucks and mauls with greater efficiency and, with better handling, might have scored another four tries.



Guscott scores one of his four and England's 16 tries in the 110-0 defeat of The Netherlands at Huddersfield

THE TIMES
Shini

Hiltons prepare for the last waltz



The Hiltons: world-beaters
Ruth Gledhill on the future for British dance sport as the nation's leading couple consider retirement

Marcus and Karen Hilton, who have set two world dance sport records within a month by winning their ninth world title and their eighth International, have announced that they are to take a "sabbatical" from competitive action.

The Hiltons, from Rochdale, who are building a reputation equal to that of their mentors, Bill and Bobbie Irvine, of Streatham, intend to stay off the floor "for the next few months". It is understood that they will be concentrating on coaching and demonstrating, especially in Japan, where they are at present.

Their departure — announced on the eve of the Close British national championships in Blackpool this week — gives the world No 2 couple, Luca and Lorraine Baricchi, from London, who won the Global Masters in Southampton last month, a clear chance to take the Open UK title in Bournemouth in January.

Speculation is growing that the Hiltons intend to return to the floor for the Open British championships next May and possibly retire permanently after that. This would avoid the controversy that accompanied the return to the floor of Donnie Burns and Gaynor Fairweather, from Scotland, who won the world professional Latin championship in South Africa for a fourteenth time after "retiring" two years earlier.

Even if the Hiltons and Burns and Fairweather stay around for another



Room at the top: the Hiltons have set new standards for dance sport, but who will be able to follow in their dazzling footsteps after they retire? Photograph: Brenton Edwards

two years or more, their retirement must come soon as both couples are in or approaching their 40s. There is widespread dismay at the small number of talented British couples trying to fill their shoes, as the growing dominance of Italians and Eastern Europeans continues to threaten the traditional eminence of Great Britain in the sport.

The Hiltons will go down in history as being among the greatest dance sport competitors and the Baricchis, also dancing for England, are expected to assume their crown. Christopher Hawkins and Hazel Newberry, with Timothy Howson and Joanne Bolton, who finished fourth and fifth respectively at the International, are also holding the fort for Britain.

In the amateur ranks, though, the future looks grim. Alan and Donna Shingler, winners of the Open Brit-

ish last year, were defeated at the recent world amateur championships in Japan by William Pino and Alessandra Bucciarelli, of Italy. Although the Shinglers won the Amateur International last month, in which Pino did not dance, three of the other five finalists were Italian. The second-placed man, Roberto Villa, was Italian, although he dances for England with Michelle Barry, of London.

The problems afflicting British dance sport seem likely to peak just as the sport gains a place on the Olympic programme, which could be early in the next millennium. The Swiss-based International Dance Sport Federation, the world amateur body, has already been granted full recognition by the International Olympic Committee.

Britain has dominated the sport since dancers deserted the old-time quadrilles and two-steps of the ball-

rooms of stately homes earlier this century and moved into sports halls and arenas with the modern waltz, fox-trot, tango and quickstep, now known as the "standard" dances.

Even in the Latin field, featuring the jive, cha-cha-cha, rumba and samba, Britain has resumed dominance in the professional world with the return of Burns and Fairweather. It is in the amateur arena, the traditional training ground, that reports of difficulties are gaining ground.

Bryan Allen, a leading coach and *Dance News* columnist, said that future Olympic gold medals are in jeopardy. He said that the sport can only be saved if amateurs are granted a licence to coach other competitors, as they do in Italy, Germany and Eastern Europe.

According to a confidential document leaked to *The Times*, a sub-committee of the British Dance Council, set up to examine the future of the sport, has recommended for the first time "that amateurs will be allowed to have training to become amateur competitive coaches". The proposal is expected to meet stiff opposition when it is debated next week.

Allen said: "Opponents are failing to see the advantages of using our young dancers to showcase the sport to young people, who are not terribly impressed by older teachers and who think anyone in their late 20s or older is getting on a bit."

In a separate paper, discussed this week by the teachers' committee of the British Dance Council, the umbrella body for the professional side of the sport, Lyndon Wainwright, a leading teacher, gave warning of a

"dramatic drop" in the influx of new pupils to dance schools. He also said that, sometimes, teachers can themselves be to blame for the decline: "Inefficient teaching can create a climate which makes the public distrustful of all schools."

No proper research has been done into the number of dance sport competitors in Britain and there is no record of the number of schools, teachers and coaches. Different reports have put the number of people who go dancing regularly at anything from 500,000 to ten times that number. However, nearly all teachers and coaches are in agreement that the sport, on the amateur side, is in serious decline in Britain. It is a decline that needs to be halted if challenges from Japan, Russia, Lithuania, Germany and Italy, where the sport has a more competitive image, are to be resisted.

BADMINTON South set to give England direction

By RICHARD EATON

ASGER MADSEN'S two-year spell in charge of England finished with a chastening 5-1 defeat to a superbly talented young China squad in the six-match Quality Hotels series, but also with an optimistic prediction that, after a long wait, he has found a top-class men's singles player.

The England head coach departs to take up a similar post next month in Germany, but he believes that he leaves behind a better structure, improving attitudes and, in Andrew South, 18, someone special. "It is not often you get star material like him," Madsen said after the 5-0 defeat at Stevenage on Saturday that again underlined the gulf between England and the world's strongest badminton nation. "Andrew will do very well if he continues working as he is. He has a long reach and a very good temperament."

The England debut of South at Weston-super-Mare on Friday was ideal, a three-game tussle with Zhang Yang, the world junior champion, which confirmed the impression that the tall youngster from Nottingham is also likely to acquire lofty stature within the game. South battled for more than an hour in a wonderful match in which he was close to beating an opponent who ought to be in the world's top ten within a couple of years and it suggested that a successor to Darren Hall, who has been the England No 1 for at least within sight.

England would probably have won at least one other match in the series had they not been determined to experiment. There were two other newcomers — Neil Waterman and Robert Knock — and several other players with limited international experience as the campaign intensifies to create a new, younger and far more professional regime.

Sisters sticking together in quest for national service

England's hockey prospects are being illuminated by some Northern light, Cathy Harris says



Lorna Sissons does not mind who she says that she wants to play hockey for England more than anything else in the world. Her heroine is Jane Sixsmith, the England and Great Britain striker, and although she would love to meet her, Sissons admits that she is not sure what she would say.

For the time being, Sissons, who turned 12 in June, is doing all her talking on the pitch. Selected for the North Under-16 squad, the defender was the youngest player at a recent regional tournament at Bedford. The experience could have proved to be daunting for a player so young, but she knew she could rely on the support of her sister, Rachel, 14, who is the team's sweeper.

"I'll be relaxed because Rachel will look after me," Sissons said before the tournament. Her prediction that the North would triumph turned out to be wrong, but what she was most looking forward to was going away and being involved in the competition.

The sisters started playing at Kirkham Grammar Junior School, with Lorna captaining the side to the national mini-hockey title two years ago. Both won academic scholarships to Kirkham Grammar School and have continued to make an impact at county and regional level. A fellow pupil, Hannah Spacey, a 13-year-old goalkeeper, was also in the North team.

"They've come in to it all very early," Adrian Metcalf, the North coach, said, "but we are not going to let them get away and, if they're going to represent England, this is all part of their development. Playing at this level will help them gain consistency in their game. All three are seen as having England potential."

Metcalf, however, cautioned against Lorna Sissons doing too much too soon. "She's definitely a player for the future, very quiet and unassuming with a good hit and an excellent understanding of the game. Rachel is a little more developed and exposure at this level will help her learn from her mistakes. The qual-

ties that we're looking for are speed, athleticism, an ability to hit the ball and a brain."

The sisters have taken already the first steps towards international recognition, with the family celebrating Rachel's recent elevation to the Lancashire Under-18 county squad and Lorna's selection for the county Under-16 side. At school, Linda Baxter, their coach, said that they add an extra dimension to the team.

"They have so much flair and individual skill that they're always dangerous on the ball," she said.

While Lorna Sissons says that Sixsmith is the best player she has seen, Rachel is more reserved and self-critical. She has set her sights on following her parents — Mark, a pathologist, and Paula, also a doctor — into medicine. The younger sister takes a little longer to think

about the future, before saying that although "pathology is gruesome but very interesting", she would like to be a doctor as well as an England international.

One quality that both sisters possess is a keen competitive streak. Enduring foul weather and freezing temperatures on the sidelines in Bedford, their parents agreed that any game played in the house was a nightmare because Rachel and Lorna hate losing. "But whatever they choose in life we'll support them," Mark Sissons said. "It's up to them — we'll just be happy to provide the taxi service."

After losing 1-0 to Queenswood, the eventual winners, in the semi-finals of the national Under-15 Cup last season, Kirkham Grammar's campaign has started with a flourish. A convincing 8-0 victory over St Bede's College earned them a third-round tie at Hulme Grammar. The Sissons siblings will play their part, but Baxter can proudly field a complete squad of county representatives intent on capturing the trophy for the first time.



Sisters in love: Lorna, left, and Rachel Sissons are establishing glowing reputations

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CHANGING TIMES

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Shining knight leads presidential race

As British athletics seeks to build on its progress from a bankrupt sport into one with winners on the track, a record television deal and a potential host of the 2003 world championships, tomorrow will be a landmark. The result of the club elections to name the first president of the new national governing body, Athletics UK, will be announced. Among the five candidates are the contrasting figures of Sir Eddie Kulukundis and Steve Overt. DAVID POWELL looks at the man with the millions and the athlete in a million.



The men who would be president: Sir Eddie Kulukundis, pictured with his wife, Susan Hampshire, and Steve Overt are contrasting running mates



Hemery hurdles into the voting

THE other leading contender for the presidency of Athletics UK, an unpaid role, is David Hemery, the 1968 Olympic 400 metres hurdles champion. Hemery, 54, is seeking his first official post in the sport, saying: "We want champion athletes, but we want young people who have fun and grow doing it." Unlike Sir Eddie and Overt, Hemery has been on the periphery of the sport in recent years. Ironically, it was Hemery who was the starting point for Sir Eddie's involvement in athletics. They met at the 1972 Olympic Games, when the businessman was struck by Hemery's modesty and asked if there was anything that he could do to help British athletes. Soon, he was putting money into the careers of Overt, Alan Pascoe and Brendan Foster. Countless others have benefited since, from Linford Christie, Sally Gunnell and Denise Lewis, to walkers and juniors. "David would be a fine president," Sir Eddie said, before adding: "My only concern is that he will not have enough time because he has youngsters and has to earn the bread. He and I are both in Athletics Youth Performance and we can never meet with David because he is always too busy." With neither David Moorcroft nor Sir Christopher Chataway, the main forces behind the sport's rehabilitation, running for president, the remaining contenders are Tom McNab, who made his reputation as a coach and author, and Dr Mike Turner, a former Britain Olympic team manager. Moorcroft is to apply to become chief executive.

Those who know Sir Eddie Kulukundis will tell you that the size of his wallet is exceeded only by the size of his heart. The size of his frame is a talking point, too. Some estimates have put him above 21st. Either way, he is up there with the shot putters. If size — bank balance, generosity, waistline — has been a theme of Sir Eddie's life, then never more so than this week. Tomorrow, we shall know whether the size of the vote for him will determine whether the sport's biggest fan — measured by enthusiasm rather than girth — is to become its most powerful politician.

It must seem incomprehensible to the theatre luvvies how a man married to a famous actress, who is on the executive committee of the Royal Shakespeare Company and who has produced more than 80 plays should be worrying about the sort of detail that Sir Eddie was troubling himself with last week. Athletes, coaches and media, though, would say: "Typical Eddie."

As Sir Eddie prepared to take his seat on Friday as the only non-statistician on a panel deciding the world merit rankings in more than 40 disciplines for Athletics International, he said: "Though I feel I know all the women javelin throwers, I seek advice on women's shot and discus because I am not really sure who should be ranked sixth, seventh or eighth. I am not sure who's who once you get past the first three or four." Few athletes, coaches or journalists could give you a No 1 for every event without reference. If it is not extraordinary enough that he should give up an entire day to agonise over such minutiae, he even pays for the rankings to happen. Indeed, Sir Eddie has been meeting other people's costs for much of his 66 years, funding promising playwrights and athletes, even coaches. He inherited a large fortune and turned it into a small one — "fair comment," he said — and was described by the Evening

A rebel urges support for the cause

Imagine Liam Gallagher in the chair at EMI. Gazza running the Football Association or Martin Clunes behaving well as Director-General of the BBC. Get the picture? Steve Overt wants to head the British athletics establishment, he hasn't started waving to the crowd, but he is in the home straight and thinks he has a chance. Overt was the controversial 1980 Olympic 800 metres champion and multi-world record-holder who shunned the press, showed a disdain for authority and irritated opponents by waving to spectators as he kicked for the finish. He broke down in tears on television over an incident that led to a AAA inquiry and, even in retirement, he has been nobody's angel. "I am a controversial figure and many people may think too controversial for the job of president, but you need somebody injected now and

again with that attitude," Overt, 43, said. "The sport needs a good kick up the backside. I am unorthodox, but I can get things done." Do not dare suggest, though, that Overt is the Screaming Lord Sutch of this election. "I am not that," he said, switching from his jocular personality to serious politician. "I am a responsible person. I have four children, I have done well in business and I know the sport probably better than anybody." Overt, who, for eight years, barely spoke to the press, has much to say for himself these days. There are two main areas, he said, that need patching up urgently. One — coaching — drew an angry and public response from Malcolm Arnold, then the Britain head coach, after comments that Overt, a television commentator, had made. "My comments upset him because he was director of coaching and, if

somebody criticises coaching, you are the one who has to stand up, beat your chest and say everything is OK. But, after coming off the Olympics with no gold medals, you cannot sit back and say everything is hunky-dory. I do not think that the coaching structure now, with all the money that has been ploughed in over the past ten or 15 years, is any better than 20 years ago. "There are only two things that matter: talent and coaching. People say the talent is there. I have always slightly doubted it, but, if it is there, we have got to do something about the coaching to develop it. On the talent side, we have got to go out and look for it. We have been lax in the past ten years." It is nine years since Overt gave a tearful performance when interviewed after the AAA 1,500 metres, though his arguments were not easily understandable then. It emerged that Overt had suspected Andy Norman, Britain's pro-

motions officer and his former close friend, of trying to shorten his career. An inquiry into Overt's allegation that Norman had phoned him with a £20,000 offer to run against Sebastian Coe in the strictly amateur championships concluded that a call was made but that it was unclear whether Norman made it. When Overt discovered Coe was not being paid, he suspected that the news that only he was would be leaked, damaging his reputation. Overt's criticism, together with similar remarks by Coe, of British middle-distance running brought a stinging response from John Mayock, the European indoor 3,000 metres champion. "We are fed up with their negative comments," Mayock said. "If unprepared to shut up, Overt is at least prepared to put up. The years of waving to his supporters have gone. The question now is: are there enough of them left to wave him into office?"

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Many top bridge players relish seeing partner's failings exposed in the media, but not the World Junior Champion, Morton Lund Madsen of Denmark. Madsen formed a new partnership with Freddy Brondum for this year's European Junior Championships in Vienna, in which Denmark eventually finished second. Writing for the bulletin, Madsen praised his partner's resourcefulness in adversity in this potentially unlucky hand from the Danish Junior Pairs.

Bridge hand diagram showing Dealer South, Game All, IMPs, and card distributions for both sides.

With their 30 pages of bidding notes, pruned down from an original 60, it was no surprise that the new partnership reached the excellent grand slam. It looks like there are thirteen easy tricks on any distribution; declarer cashes the ace of clubs and can arrange to finesse against J-x-x-x on either side. Unfortunately the heart lead took away one of the necessary entries to hand. What could Brondum do about this? Technically speaking, nothing, but let Madsen take up the story: "Fred is a very good card player, but not psychic. So he took the king of hearts and played a club to the ace.

After getting the bad news Freddy instantly called for a small diamond from the dummy. As it was early Sunday morning East played low and Fred played the eight from hand! When that held everything was in order and he could return to hand after playing a club to the ten and cashing the queen to score up his +220."

WORD-WATCHING section with a list of words and their definitions, such as THELYTOKY, SEISES, and GAD.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Number two Second prize in the powerful tournament at Tilburg was won by Peter Leko, the Hungarian grandmaster. Some time ago, Leko became the world's youngest grandmaster, but his early promise was stifled by excessive caution and inability to win against the world's best players. Leko now appears to have emerged from this impasse and today's game, for example, sees him adroitly beating off a promising looking attack.

Chess game diagram showing the board position and move list for White: Veselin Topalov vs Black: Peter Leko.

Times book The Times Winning Moves 2 contains 240 chess puzzles from international grandmaster Raymond Keene's daily column in The Times and is available now from backshops or from B.T. Batsford Ltd (tel: 01797 369906 at £6.99 plus postage and packing).

WINNING MOVE section with a chess board diagram and a list of moves for White to play.

together in al service



Citibank advertisement for Elton John's 1998 World Tour. Features the headline 'What a performer. Giving 11 times more interest on your current account...' and lists various banking services like overdraft, 24-hour phone access, and internet banking.

RACING: JOCKEY MARKS ANNIVERSARY OF SERIOUS FALL WITH VICTORY IN VALUABLE HURDLE

Osborne celebrates with Grey Shot

By CHRIS McGRATH

WHEN Graham Bradley walked into the paddock before the first race at Cheltenham yesterday, it was hard to imagine a more eloquent tribute to the iron resilience of National Hunt jockeys...



ALAN HERRINGTON/SPORT

Champion Hurdle. "I can't say how wonderful it feels to be here after everything that has happened. For a couple of weeks, I did question whether the condition that had set into my hand was worth fighting with the ferocity it required."

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: RAGAMUFF (1.50 Leicester) Next best: Simons Castle (2.20 Leicester) pelvis. Yet here he was, cantering down to the start with Door To Door.

Lady Rebecca, left, disputes the lead on her way to winning the Stakis Casinos Handicap Hurdle at Cheltenham yesterday

well in his other calling, as a talented amateur painter, as Lady Rebecca, left, disputes the lead on her way to winning the Stakis Casinos Handicap Hurdle at Cheltenham yesterday

less sensitive and intelligent than he, however, would recognise that life is unlikely to be quite the same again after all the blackest hour of his life was the death of his dear friend, John Durkan.

Top Cees moved to Balding

TOP CEES, unwitting star of the fibel trial that gripped racing earlier this year, has joined Ian Balding after the retirement of Lynda Ramsden (Chris McGrath writes). The eight-year-old's principal target is to be the Queen Alexandra Stakes at Royal Ascot.

WOLVERHAMPTON

THUNDERER 1.00 State Wind. 1.30 Little Lhrn. 2.00 Lohan. 2.30 Twice As Sharp. 3.00 Alana's Cavalier. 3.30 Su-altach. 4.00 Arbanig. 4.30 Operatic.

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

Table with columns for meeting (Cheltenham, Ayr, Towcester), race name, winner, and other details.

NATIONAL HUNT LEADERS

Table listing trainers and jockeys with their respective win and place percentages.

DETAILS FROM SATURDAY'S FIVE MEETINGS

Table providing detailed race results for Cheltenham, Windsor, Ayr, Market Rasen, and Wolverhampton.

1.00 FEVRIER DECORATORS LTD MEDIUM AUCTION

Auction results table for the 1.00 Fevrier Decorators Ltd Medium Auction.

2.00 FEVRIER DECORATORS LTD MEDIUM AUCTION

Auction results table for the 2.00 Fevrier Decorators Ltd Medium Auction.

2.30 GAILEY HANDBICAP (€3,485: 6) (13)

Race results table for the 2.30 Gailey Handicap.

WINDSOR

Race results table for the Windsor meeting.

1.05 CURRAGH NOVICES HURDLE (€2,373: 2m 4) (13 runners)

Race results table for the 1.05 Curragh Novices Hurdle.

1.40 TOTE NOVICES CHASE (€4,182: 2m 5) (5)

Race results table for the 1.40 Tote Novices Chase.

3.00 TITUS TOL COMPANY MAIDEN AUCTION

Auction results table for the 3.00 Titus Tol Company Maiden Auction.

3.30 49'S HANDBICAP (SHOWCASE RACE AND TOTE TRIFECTA RACE) (€7,068: 1m 100yd) (15)

Race results table for the 3.30 49's Handicap.

4.00 STOURBRIDGE SELLING STAKES (Div 1: €1,564: 7) (12)

Race results table for the 4.00 Stourbridge Selling Stakes.

4.30 BRIDGTON HANDBICAP (€2,885: 1m 6) (16/6y) (12)

Race results table for the 4.30 Bridgton Handicap.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

Table listing course specialists and their performance statistics.

2.10 PENSING SECURITIES GLT CLIMBING HURDLE (€3,550: 2m 4) (5)

Race results table for the 2.10 Pensing Securities Glt Climbing Hurdle.

2.40 BRITISH EQUESTRIAN INSURANCE BROKERS HANDBICAP CHASE (€4,143: 3m 11) (10y) (6)

Race results table for the 2.40 British Equestrian Insurance Brokers Handicap Chase.

3.10 SMURFIT MAIDEN CHASE (€3,209: 2m 5) (10)

Race results table for the 3.10 Smurfit Maiden Chase.

3.40 LABROCKE LAST RACE HANDBICAP HURDLE (Qualifier: €2,760: 2m 1) (5)

Race results table for the 3.40 Labrocke Last Race Handicap Hurdle.

LEICESTER THUNDERER 12.50 Octavia Hill, 1.20 Rubamma, 1.50 Debt Of Honour, 3.20 Native Speaker, 3.50 MOLSUM (nap) Timekeeper's top rating: 1.20 SIBOR STAR.

GOING: GOOD (CHASE COURSE); SOFT (HURDLES)

TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

12.50 DESBOROUGH MARES ONLY NOVICES HANDBICAP HURDLE (€2,882: 2m 4) (110yd) (15 runners)

Race results table for the 12.50 Desborough Mares Only Novices Handicap Hurdle.

1.20 JUNIOR SELLING HURDLE (€2,616: 2m) (14 runners)

Race results table for the 1.20 Junior Selling Hurdle.

1.50 MIDLAND HANDBICAP CHASE (€3,431: 2m 7) (110yd) (11 runners)

Race results table for the 1.50 Midland Handicap Chase.

2.20 MOSSDORFER UK 10TH ANNIVERSARY HANDBICAP HURDLE (€4,988: 2m) (8 runners)

Race results table for the 2.20 Mossdorfer UK 10th Anniversary Handicap Hurdle.

2.50 JENNY PITMAN NOVICES CHASE (€3,106: 2m 1) (8 runners)

Race results table for the 2.50 Jenny Pitman Novices Chase.

3.20 STOUGHTON NOVICES HURDLE (€2,903: 2m 4) (9 runners)

Race results table for the 3.20 Stoughton Novices Hurdle.

3.50 LEVY BOARD HANDBICAP HURDLE (€2,280: 2m 4) (110yd) (4 runners)

Race results table for the 3.50 Levy Board Handicap Hurdle.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

Table listing course specialists and their performance statistics.

TRAINERS

Table listing trainers and their performance statistics.

JOCKEYS

Table listing jockeys and their performance statistics.

WINS

Table listing winners and their performance statistics.

PLUMPTON

Table listing plumpton and their performance statistics.

WOLVERHAMPTON

Table listing Wolverhampton and their performance statistics.

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Table listing Wolverhampton and their performance statistics.

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FOR THE RECORD

BADMINTON

STEVENAGE: Quality Hotels Tour: Fish... Double: S. Handberg and J. Wang...

BOWLS

KOMLOON: Manilla Hong Kong International... Group A: Hong Kong in Club de Recreation...

BOXING

GRUNDY PARK LEISURE CENTRE... Championship: Light-heavyweight...

EQUESTRIANISM

BERLIN WORLD CUP SHOW: Elena... Colleen 2: Olin 3: Doncaster 2: Slough 5...

WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE

Premier division: Ipswich 1: Leicester 4... Colleen 2: Olin 3: Doncaster 2: Slough 5...

ROWING

FULLERS FOURS HEAD OF THE RIVER... Ipswich 1: Leicester 4: Colleen 2: Olin 3...

SQUASH

STUTTGART: Women's World team... South Africa 4: Australia 3: England 3...

BASKETBALL

BIRMINGHAM LEAGUE: Friday Newcastle... 77 Manchester 77 Derby 80...

HOCKEY

STONE-CENTRE: Men's British... C. Hogg 1: C. Hogg 2: C. Hogg 3...

GYMNASICS

STONE-CENTRE: Men's British... C. Hogg 1: C. Hogg 2: C. Hogg 3...

CRICKET

TOUR MATCH: Kimberley (second day)... Gloucestershire 271: Middlesex 400...

WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE

Premier division: Ipswich 1: Leicester 4... Colleen 2: Olin 3: Doncaster 2: Slough 5...

BASKETBALL

MANCHESTER LEAGUE: Friday Newcastle... 77 Manchester 77 Derby 80...

HOCKEY

STONE-CENTRE: Men's British... C. Hogg 1: C. Hogg 2: C. Hogg 3...

CRICKET

TOUR MATCH: Kimberley (second day)... Gloucestershire 271: Middlesex 400...

WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE

Premier division: Ipswich 1: Leicester 4... Colleen 2: Olin 3: Doncaster 2: Slough 5...

WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE

Premier division: Ipswich 1: Leicester 4... Colleen 2: Olin 3: Doncaster 2: Slough 5...

RUSSIAN INTERNATIONAL MATCH

Great Britain 28: New Zealand 23... Ipswich 1: Leicester 4: Colleen 2: Olin 3...

WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE

Premier division: Ipswich 1: Leicester 4... Colleen 2: Olin 3: Doncaster 2: Slough 5...

ATHLETICS

Cross country... Metz, France: Lorraine Republic race... Men (9.2km): 1. W. Kaya (Ken) 20m...

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Craven Cottage looms over boats in the Head of the River Fours race at Putney on Saturday, in which over 500 crews took part. Photograph: Martin Beddall. Report, page 36

GOLF

Norman and S. Elkington (Aus) 67, 64: 133... 64, 69, 70: J. M. Singh (Ind) 69, 67, 70...

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WORLD CUP

Table with columns for Country, P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Includes entries for New Zealand, England, Ireland, etc.

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SCHOOLS

FOOTBALL: Hartlepool Trophy... Craven Cottage looms over boats in the Head of the River Fours race...

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SCHOOLS

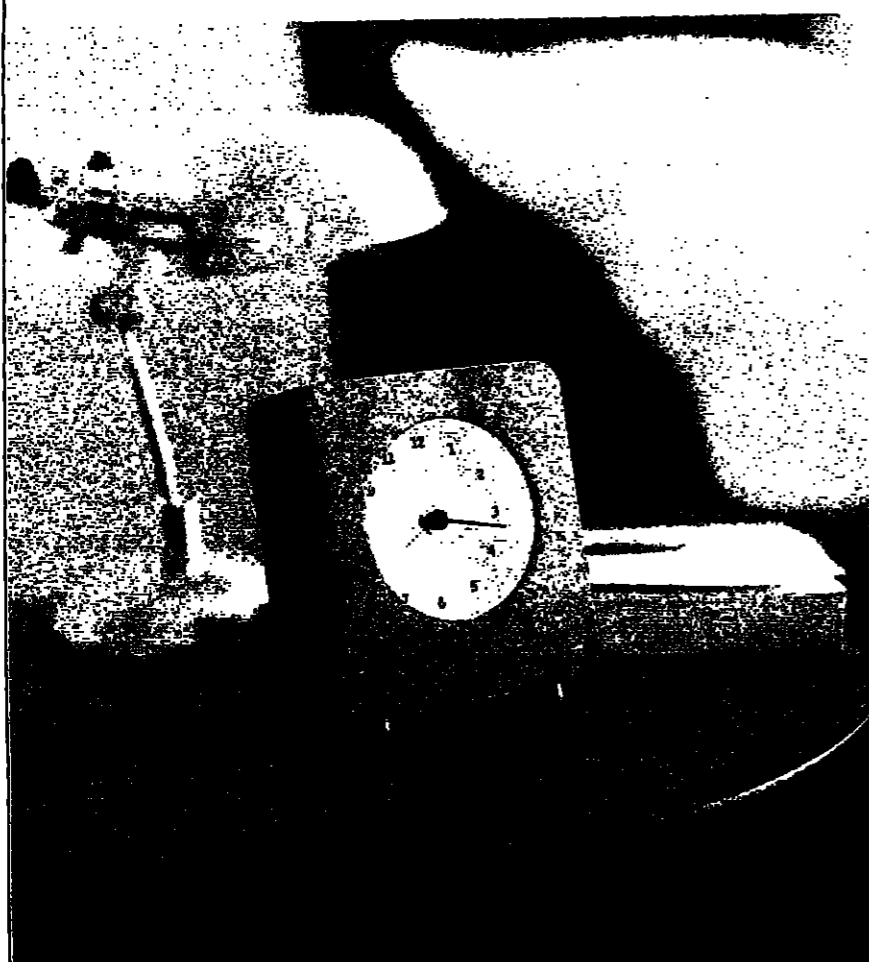
FOOTBALL: Hartlepool Trophy... Craven Cottage looms over boats in the Head of the River Fours race...

SCHOOLS

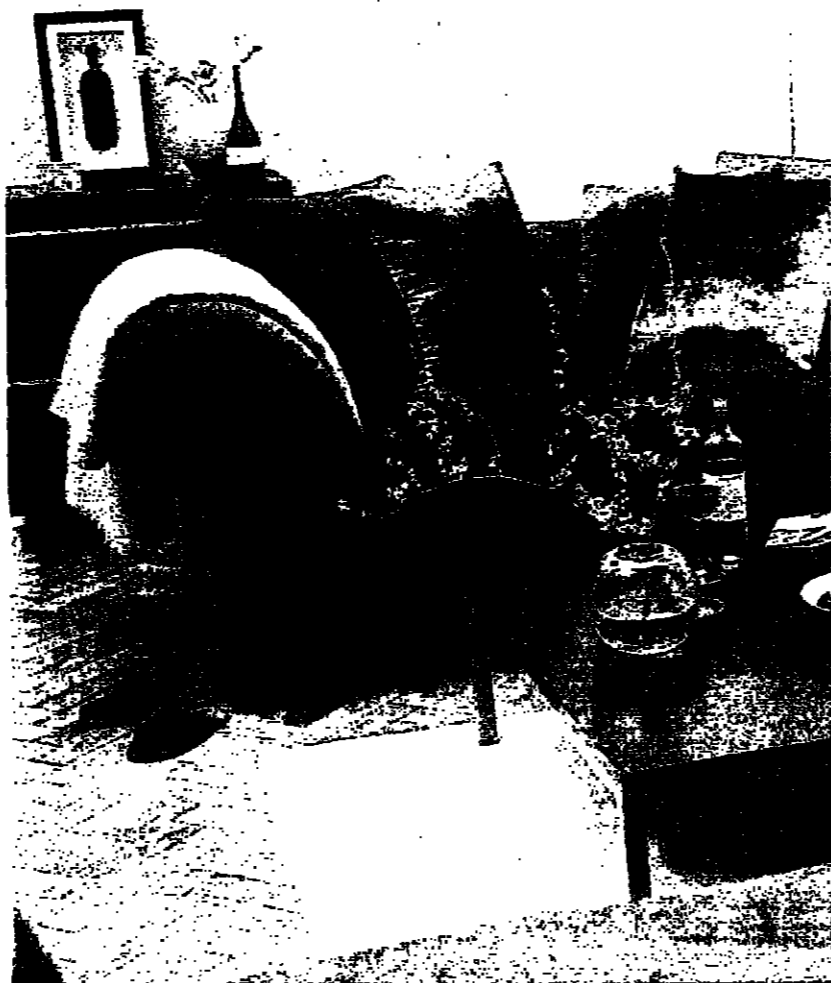
FOOTBALL: Hartlepool Trophy... Craven Cottage looms over boats in the Head of the River Fours race...

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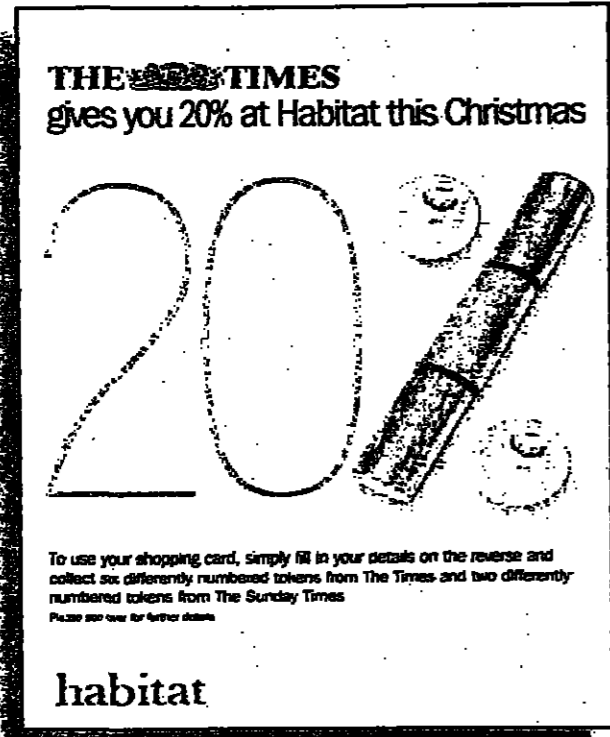
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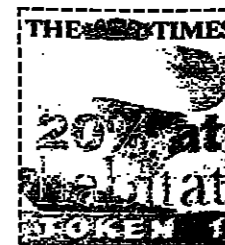
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CHANGING TIMES

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Wide disc

Partners m

European Law Report
Place w

Law Report November 16 1998 House of Lords

Wide discretion of chief constable to prevent breach of the peace

Regina v Chief Constable of Sussex, Ex parte International Trader's Ferry Ltd

Before Lord Slynn of Hadley, Lord Nolan, Lord Hoffmann, Lord Cooke of Thorndon and Lord Hope of Craighead [Speeches November 11] The duty of the police to uphold the law was subject to a wide discretion on the part of the chief constable and circumstances could arise where, having regard to the manpower and financial resources available to the overall operational needs of the force, a decision could properly be taken not to commit all available resources to a given dispute or demonstration, or to restrain a lawful activity so as to prevent a breach of the peace.

In 1995 Trader's Ferry had begun a regular service across the Channel from the port of Shoreham after the major ferry operators had stopped carrying livestock cargo. Large numbers of demonstrators at Shoreham had necessitated a high level of policing and after several months of providing cover for five days of sailings a week the chief constable decided that the financial and other resources required to police the port area was interfering with the efficient policing of the county.

Her Lordship saw it, a right to trade lawfully was not an absolute right by which the chief constable owed a duty to protect the trader at whatever cost, any more than was the right to protest lawfully such an absolute right. In a situation where there were conflicting rights and the police had a duty to uphold the law the police might, in deciding what to do, have to balance a number of factors, not the least of which was the likelihood of a serious breach of the peace being committed. That involved balancing judgment and discretion.

It had been argued that what he did in providing police assistance was proportionate to what was required. To protect the liberties in the way that he did, was a suitable and necessary way of dealing with potentially violent demonstrators. To limit the occasions when sufficient police could be made available, in the light of the resources available to him, to deal with immediate and foreseeable events at the port and at the same time to carry out all his other police duties, had been shown to be necessary and in no way disproportionate to the restrictions which were involved.

Lord Nolan and Lord Cooke delivered speeches concurring with Lord Slynn. LORD HOFFMANN said that the claim in domestic law was quite hopeless. The fact that a chief constable considered that certain resources would be needed to prevent some kind of criminal behaviour did not entail that he was obliged to provide them. He might, for example, decide that the only way to eliminate muggings on the streets of Brighton or burglaries in Rottingdean was to have many more constables on patrol and spend large sums on vehicles and communication equipment. That could not create a duty to find the resources at the expense of other policing activities.

There was no distinction between the interests of Trader's Ferry in obtaining protection from demonstrators and those of the citizens of Brighton and Rottingdean in obtaining protection from muggers and burglars. His Lordship felt some reluctance about dealing with the European aspect of the case on the assumptions accepted by the courts below, namely that Trader's Ferry were entitled to enforce Community rights under articles 5 and 34 of the Treaty, and that in considering justification it was right to consider public policy from the point of view of the chief constable rather than the United Kingdom as a whole.

The substance of the complaint was that the chief constable had not taken measures to protect the constables. In the European jurisprudence on the free movement of goods Trader's Ferry could only claim infringement of article 34 in respect of positive preventive measures as being directly enforceable by citizens, not a failure to act. Nor could it rely on the requirement under article 5 for the member state to take positive steps to ensure fulfilment of the article 34 obligation, since his Lordship did not believe that article 5 had direct effect in such circumstances.

As to justification, the difficulty was that it had to be seen in terms of the legitimate interests of the member state as a whole and, for that purpose, all the institutions of the state were aggregated and treated as a single entity. But it would be absurd for a court to make an order against an individual chief constable requiring him to take certain steps on the assumption that he had access to all the resources of the United Kingdom. He plainly could not comply with such an order. That reinforced the view that article 34 had no application to the present case.

Partners must make change in profits explicit

Joyce v Morrissey and Others

Before Lord Justice Peter Gibson, Lord Justice Thorpe and Lord Justice Waller [Judgment November 6] Partners who wished to change the distribution of profit among the members of the partnership, placing the presumption of equality laid down by section 24 of the Partnership Act 1890, had to make it absolutely clear to their fellow partners, and their fellow partners had to accept, that the only basis on which they would continue was on a different and unequal basis. That could not be achieved simply by partnership accounts being sent to the fellow partners showing the new unequal distribution, and assuming that the fellow partners' silence constituted acceptance of the new terms, particularly where members of the partnership might not be expected to understand the accounts without some assistance and explanation.

In essence the claim put forward by Mr Joyce was that as performing members of the group he and Mr Rourke were entitled to equal shares with Mr Morrissey and Mr Marr of all net profits from recordings and live performances. Mr Morrissey's case was that he and Mr Marr had been the prime movers in the band and had effectively been the ones controlling its management and organisation, and had made a far greater contribution and commitment to it; and that it had been agreed and was understood by all members of the group that that should be reflected in their shares being 40 per cent each, and those of Mr Joyce and Mr Rourke being only 10 per cent each.

LORD JUSTICE WALLER said it was clear as a matter of partnership law that if one or more partners made a greater contribution than others, that in no way displaced the presumption of equality. See *Lindeley & Banks on Partnership* (17th edition (1988) paragraph 19-22). It was unsustainable on the evidence that the partners had concluded their activities from the commencement of the partnership on the basis of a split of 40/40/10/10. The maximum that could be said was that Mr Morrissey wanted to change the equal sharing to a 40/40/10/10, and that since Mr Joyce had made no objection at that stage, his silence must be taken as acceptance of the way the profits were split.

Once it was established, as it was in this case, that the partnership was from its commencement on the basis of equality, for Mr Morrissey to establish that there was a variation from equality, he must show the Mr Joyce accepted in a contractual sense that that was the basis on which the group was to continue, and for there to be a contractual acceptance the terms must be certain and there must be consideration. If there was to be a variation of that type of partnership there was no express partnership deed providing powers to make variations, the consideration would normally be provided by the agreement not to terminate the partnership if the new terms were agreed, but it must be possible to spell out an agreement of that kind before a variation could be established.

There was no distinction between the interests of Trader's Ferry in obtaining protection from demonstrators and those of the citizens of Brighton and Rottingdean in obtaining protection from muggers and burglars. His Lordship felt some reluctance about dealing with the European aspect of the case on the assumptions accepted by the courts below, namely that Trader's Ferry were entitled to enforce Community rights under articles 5 and 34 of the Treaty, and that in considering justification it was right to consider public policy from the point of view of the chief constable rather than the United Kingdom as a whole.

Joint and severable liability for paying costs

Mainwaring and Another v Goldtech Investments Ltd (No 2)

Before Lord Justice Peter Gibson, Lord Justice Pill and Lord Justice Mummery [Judgment October 30] Where a costs order made against two parties was wholly disallowed against one party under Order 62, rule 28(4) of the Rules of the Supreme Court because of the receiving party's failure to serve a bill of costs on that party, the effect of that order was also to disallow the costs against the second paying party even though she had been properly served, because of the paying party's joint and several liability for costs. Accordingly there was no power under Order 62 to disallow the costs order against one paying party while leaving undisturbed the order against the second.

That defect was not remedied on September 9, 1994 taxation certificates were nevertheless served on Mr Lisle as well as Ms Mainwaring. Mr Lisle promptly rejected all certificates and still there was no service on him. On March 11, 1996 Mr Lisle served a summons seeking disallowance of all costs under Order 62, rule 28(4). The chief taxing master ordered that the copy bill of costs sent to Mr Lisle on March 29, 1996 stand as good service as of May 23, 1996.

As to justification, the difficulty was that it had to be seen in terms of the legitimate interests of the member state as a whole and, for that purpose, all the institutions of the state were aggregated and treated as a single entity. But it would be absurd for a court to make an order against an individual chief constable requiring him to take certain steps on the assumption that he had access to all the resources of the United Kingdom. He plainly could not comply with such an order. That reinforced the view that article 34 had no application to the present case.

European Law Report

Place where damage to goods arose

Réunion Européenne SA and Others v Spiethoff's Bevrachtungskantor BV and Another

Since the bill of lading in the present case disclosed no contractual relationship freely entered into between Brambi and the other hand and Spiethoff's and the master of the vessel, who, according to the invoice, was the carrier of the goods, the action against the latter could not be a matter relating to a contract within article 5(1). In Case 189/87 *Kalfelis v Schroder* (1988) ECR 5565, paragraph 18, the court had defined the concept of matters relating to tort, delict or quasi-delict within article 5(3) as an independent concept covering all actions seeking to establish the liability of a defendant which were not related to a contract within article 5(1). That was the position in the present case, so that the action against the actual carriers was one under article 5(3).

It followed that two claims in one action for compensation, directed against different defendants and based in one instance on contractual liability and in the other on liability in tort or delict, could not be regarded as connected. Although there were disadvantages in different aspects of the same dispute being adjudicated by different courts, they were outweighed by the considerations that a plaintiff was always entitled to bring his action in its entirety before the courts for the domicile of the defendant and that article 22 of the Convention allowed the court seised, in certain circumstances, to hear the case in its entirety provided that there was a connection between the actions brought before the different courts.

On those grounds the court ruled: 1. An action by which the consignee of goods found to be damaged on completion of a transport operation by sea and then by land, merely discovered the existence of the damage to the goods delivered to him, could not serve to determine the place where the harmful event occurred within the meaning of article 5(3) of the Convention, as interpreted by the Court. 2. The place where the consignee of the goods, on completion of a transport operation by sea and then by land, merely discovered the existence of the damage to the goods delivered to him, could not serve to determine the place where the harmful event occurred within the meaning of article 5(3) of the Convention, as interpreted by the Court. 3. Article 6(1) of the Convention was to be interpreted as meaning that a defendant domiciled in a contracting state could not be sued in another contracting state before a co-defendant not domiciled in a contracting state on the ground that that action in so far as it was not so based.

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Luxembourg

Review of hear-by dates

Practice Direction (Court of Appeal, Civil Division): (Hear-by dates) Hear-by dates for the Court of Appeal, Civil Division, have been reviewed, with the aim of rationalising hear-by dates applying to broadly similar types of cases. Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, so stated on November 10 when handing down a practice direction replacing the hear-by dates in Practice Direction (Court of Appeal: Revised procedure) (The Times May 14, 1997; [1997] 1 WLR 1013).

Practice Direction (Court of Appeal, Civil Division): (Hear-by dates) Hear-by dates for the Court of Appeal, Civil Division, have been reviewed, with the aim of rationalising hear-by dates applying to broadly similar types of cases. Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, so stated on November 10 when handing down a practice direction replacing the hear-by dates in Practice Direction (Court of Appeal: Revised procedure) (The Times May 14, 1997; [1997] 1 WLR 1013).

Practice Direction (Court of Appeal, Civil Division): (Hear-by dates) Hear-by dates for the Court of Appeal, Civil Division, have been reviewed, with the aim of rationalising hear-by dates applying to broadly similar types of cases. Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, so stated on November 10 when handing down a practice direction replacing the hear-by dates in Practice Direction (Court of Appeal: Revised procedure) (The Times May 14, 1997; [1997] 1 WLR 1013).

Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Table with columns: Company, Price, % Chg, P/E. Includes sub-sections for ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES and BANKS.

Table with columns: Company, Price, % Chg, P/E. Includes sub-sections for FOOD MANUFACTURERS and LEISURE & HOTELS.

Table with columns: Company, Price, % Chg, P/E. Includes sub-sections for MINING and PROPERTY.

Table with columns: Company, Price, % Chg, P/E. Includes sub-sections for TRANSPORT and WATER.

Table with columns: Company, Price, % Chg, P/E. Includes sub-sections for BREWERIES, PUBS & REST and DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS.

Table with columns: Company, Price, % Chg, P/E. Includes sub-sections for ELECTRICITY and ELECTRONIC & ELECT.

Table with columns: Company, Price, % Chg, P/E. Includes sub-sections for HEALTHCARE and HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT.

Table with columns: Company, Price, % Chg, P/E. Includes sub-sections for RETAILERS: FOOD and RETAILERS: GENERAL.

Table with columns: Company, Price, % Chg, P/E. Includes sub-sections for BUILDING MATERIALS and CHEMICALS.

Table with columns: Company, Price, % Chg, P/E. Includes sub-sections for CONSTRUCTION and INSURANCE.

Table with columns: Company, Price, % Chg, P/E. Includes sub-sections for MEDIA and PHARMACEUTICALS.

Table with columns: Company, Price, % Chg, P/E. Includes sub-sections for ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET and SUPPORT SERVICES.

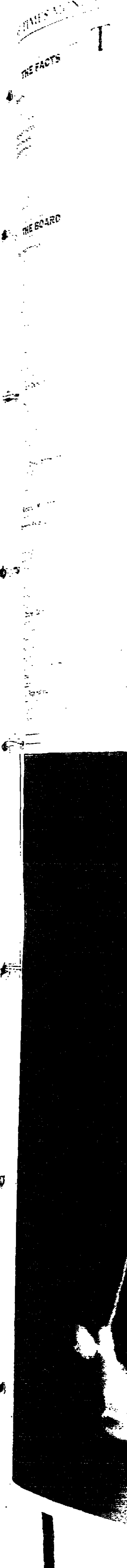
Table with columns: Company, Price, % Chg, P/E. Includes sub-sections for DISTRIBUTORS and ENGINEERING VEHICLES.

Table with columns: Company, Price, % Chg, P/E. Includes sub-sections for INVESTMENT TRUSTS and SHORTS (under 5 years).

Table with columns: Company, Price, % Chg, P/E. Includes sub-sections for LONGS (over 15 years) and UNDATED.

Table with columns: Company, Price, % Chg, P/E. Includes sub-sections for MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years) and INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of 3%.

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THE FACTS

Results: Pre-tax profits of £257 million on turnover of £3.25 billion in the year to May 2, 1998. Market value: £3.4 billion. Employees: 66,000. Businesses: Three main legs: construction components, food manufacturing — mainly bread and cakes — and industrial and automotive engineering. It also has a smaller professional, garden and leisure side which includes Smith & Wesson.

THE BOARD

Greg Hutchings, 51, is executive chairman of Tomkins. Educated at Uppingham School and the University of Aston, he joined the company — then called F H Tomkins — from Hanson in 1983. He became chief executive a year later and executive chairman in 1985. Hutchings plays hockey in Richmond every weekend, saying it helps to take his mind off business issues.

The deputy chairman and managing director — finance — is Ian Duncan. He joined the board in July 1994 from Pentos, the book retailer, where he was group finance director, having previously been at Ams and Rockwell International.

The chief operating officer, who only joined two years ago, is David Snowden. He was brought in from Hanson, where he had worked on first the group's acquisition strategy and then its demerger.

Richard Marchant, the company secretary, and Anthony Reading, who runs the US operations, both joined in 1992. Marchant from Leigh interests, Reading from BTR.

Tomkins has only three non-executive directors and only two are considered to be independent by institutional investors.

Charles Gates, is 77 and became a director in 1996 when Tomkins bought Gates Corporation, where he had been a director for 50 years. His family is Tomkins's largest single shareholder. All Wambold is a managing director of Lazard Frères in New York and Roger Holland is the controversial former chairman of Cray Electronics, the troubled technology group.

The boardroom of Tomkins — often referred to as the "buns-to-guns" conglomerate — is in a conservatory built on top of the group's understated headquarters in Putney, South West London. The view is exceptional, stretching right across the West End and the City to Canary Wharf, home of Tomkins's main financial advisers, CSFB. It seems to exemplify Tomkins's relationship with the City — both acknowledge each other's existence, but neither wants to be too close.

Greg Hutchings — the leader of the small group of executives that, over the past 15 years, has transformed a small buckle and fastener maker into a stalwart of the FTSE 100 — feels the City does not give Tomkins enough credit.

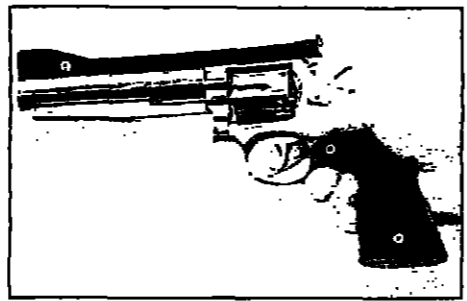
"Over the 15 years we have been very reliable and shown a huge outperformance," Mr Hutchings said. "We have set out to build bigger and better business units, always in the manufacturing sector, and we have tried to be non-cyclical and balanced."

He pointed out that the market value of the company has grown 43 times, and that the dividend has shown compound growth of 15 per cent per annum and never faltered. "No FTSE company can match that," he said.

Yet, despite being darlings of the City through most of the 1980s and some of the early 1990s, the shares have underperformed the market over the past six years. Indeed, the change from City darling to City pariah can be accurately dated from the time Tomkins agreed to buy the bread, cakes and milling company Rank Hovis McDougall (RHM) for £938 million in 1992.

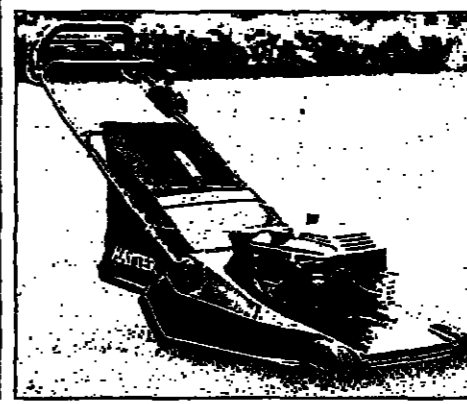
For the first nine years of Mr Hutchings's rule at Tomkins, it appeared he could do no wrong. The company followed a path well trodden by acquisitive conglomerates in the 1980s, buying small manufacturing companies and using tight cash control, aggressive management and centralised head office services to increase their profits. One of the first companies it purchased, Ferraris Piston Services, was sold last year for £61 million, having cost Tomkins only £200,000 back in 1984.

The big leap forward came in 1986, when Tomkins made a hostile bid for Pegler Hattersley, the plumbing equipment company. The success of the Pegler purchase gave Tom-



From buns to guns: Greg Hutchings, executive chairman, is frustrated at the lack of credit Tomkins is given by the City for the group's success with businesses as diverse as Smith & Wesson and Rank Hovis McDougall, taking in automotive components and lawnmowers along the way

CORPORATE PROFILE: Tomkins



kins the wherewithal to expand in the US, buying Murray, the lawnmower and bicycle maker, and Smith & Wesson. The fact that such a famous brand, synonymous with the Wild West and US law enforcement, should end up in British hands was seen as a symbol of British business virility. This, and the solid figures reported by Tomkins through the 1980s recession, contributed to the premium rating the group had prior to buying RHM.

Contrary to popular belief, Pegler was the only time a Tomkins takeover has not been an agreed deal. Many in the market incorrectly believe that Tomkins's bid for RHM was aggressive. "We were the white knights for RHM, which people forget was fighting off a bid by Hanson," Mr Hutchings said.

The City's unhappiness with the RHM deal came for three

different reasons. The first was strategic. Though Tomkins had been seen as a conglomerate, it was focused on industrial products. Most analysts, and many institutional investors, questioned whether Tomkins had the expertise to turn around an ailing bread and cake maker. The second was due to the £600 million raised through a rights issue to fund the purchase, which hit the market at a time

when many institutions wanted to shepherd their cash resources. Third, there was a feeling that Hutchings had bid for RHM only to show he could beat his former boss, Lord Hanson, at his own game.

Not surprisingly, Mr Hutchings has little truck with the third of these arguments. He pays lip service to the second and dismisses the first by pointing to RHM's performance

under Tomkins. Last year the operation made £163 million of profit on £1.8 billion of sales, a margin creeping towards 10 per cent.

Hutchings says that increasing the margin was crucial to making the RHM deal work, and this was achieved by cutting the operation's dependence on standard white, sliced loaves, where there is hardly any profit, replacing the business with branded bread such as Hovis and premium products such as croissants and frozen part-baked baguettes.

"The principles are the same and the way we incentivise our managers is the same, it does not make a blind bit of difference whether we are making a loaf of bread or a lawnmower," Mr Hutchings said. "We buy the raw materials, we make them into a product, we market that product and we collect money from the customers. I never understand why people

thought it was a bit different." Having bedded down RHM, Tomkins decided it was ready to make another strategic move in 1996, when it paid £913 million to buy Gates, a US group specialising in components for the automotive and engineering industry. Mr Hutchings saw it as an important step in the group's development.

"Gates gave us critical mass, particularly in the States," he says. "It means we are a £4 billion to £5 billion company, with a diversity that insulates us from most economic cycles. It also meant that we could start selling off some of the businesses that did not fit. Before Gates we would be concerned if we sold something for less than book value because of the hit on our profit-and-loss account. After Gates this became much less of a problem."

Since Gates, Tomkins has been pruning its portfolio, disposing of 20 companies in two

years and only a few weeks ago selling the F H Tomkins Buckle Company, the original business on which the Hutchings empire was based. Tomkins has also signalled its willingness to cut loose another of its traditional businesses — the Professional, Garden and Leisure side, which includes Smith & Wesson. However, this side has been hit by a vicious price war in the US bicycle market.

The disposal programme gave the City another reason to put pressure on Tomkins. Last year, noting that Tomkins had £617 million of net cash on its balance sheet, institutions and analysts pressed it to buy back some of its shares. Begrudgingly Tomkins did repurchase about £150 million of stock, but at the same time spent £741 million on add-on acquisitions and £204 million on capital investment. This has left Tomkins with a small amount of borrowings and a desire to buy bolt-on businesses.

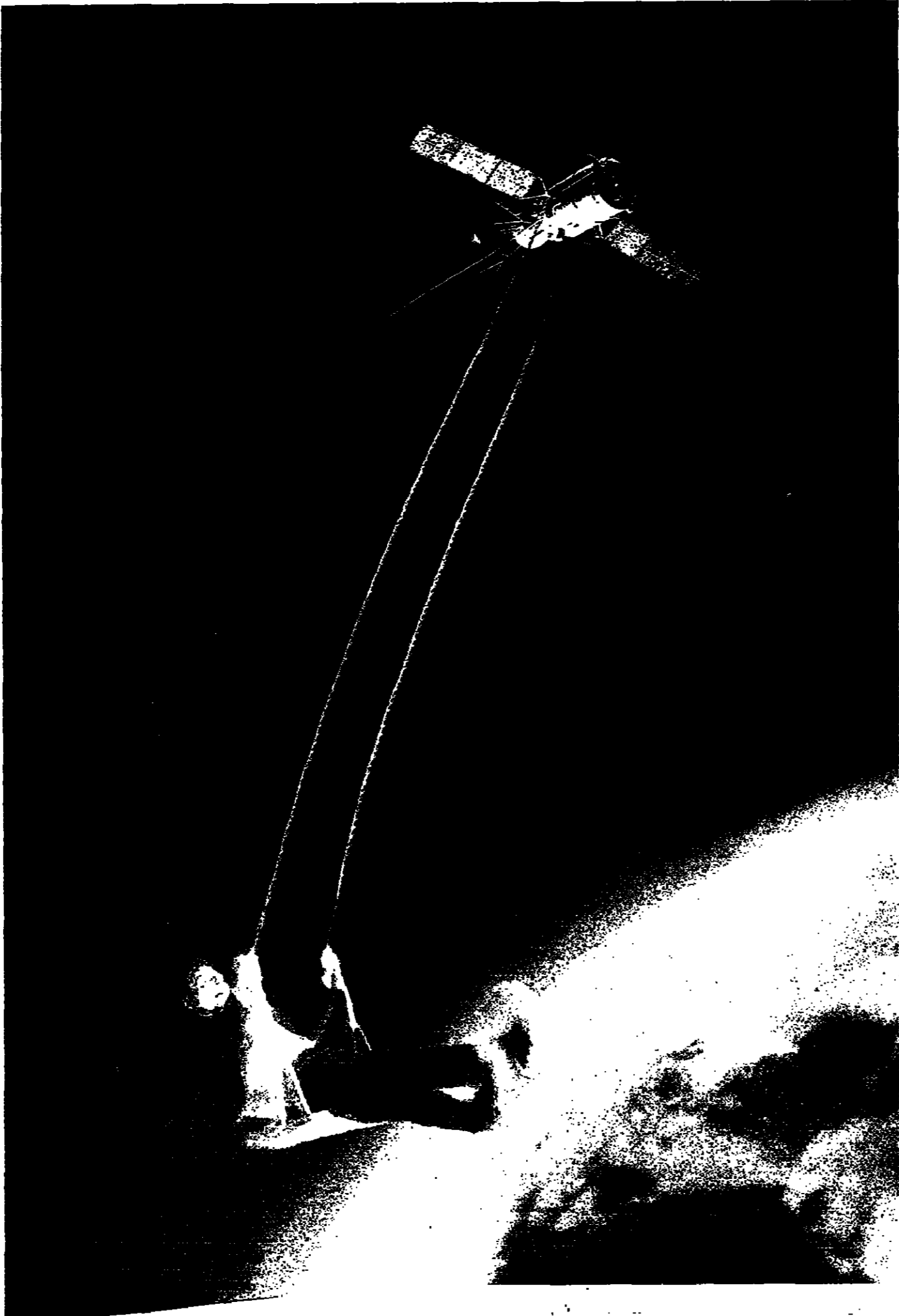
"If you buy unrelated businesses, there is only one area of opportunity for improvement, the quality of your management," Mr Hutchings said. "In a related business, there are three areas — improvement management, incremental sales growth through selling your existing products to the new customer bases and vice versa, and the ability to enhance margins by having more buying power and not needing two head offices."

Even so, Tomkins might consider another large strategic move two or three years down the line. Mr Hutchings is not tempted into a large unrelated acquisition at the moment, despite the softening of prices ("Things are often cheap for a reason," he says). But given a couple of years and a change in City sentiment, who knows?

JASON NISSÉ

WHAT THE EXPERTS SAY
"Tomkins's strength lies in its ability consistently to generate superior returns, above-average earnings and dividend growth. Still in the process of transforming the capital structure, the company now has two platforms for further synergies and growth: foods and auto components."
Arend Dijkers, Salomon Smith Barney
"The strategy and structure of the group have become clearer in the last 18 months, which makes it easier to value and should enable a higher rating as the uncertainty discount is eliminated"
Mike Monkton, Warburg Dillon Read

OUR VERDICT
Ethical expression! 3/10
Fat-cat quotient? 6/10
Financial record 9/10
Share performance 5/10
Attitude to staff 8/10
Strength of brand 6/10
Innovation 7/10
Annual report 8/10
City star rating 6/10
Future prospects 7/10
Total 65/100
Ethical expression is evaluated by Integrity Works. The fat-cat quotient, in which best boardroom pay practices score highest, is provided by Scrip Consulting.



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Past problems have caught up with Safeway



Colin Smith, Safeway chairman, is expected to report strong growth in like-for-like sales

SAFEWAY: A drop in profits and falling margins are likely when the supermarket chain unveils half-year results on Wednesday. The company, which struggled a year ago with supply chain problems and had to issue a warning on profits, has made strenuous efforts to improve operations this year and has invested in both marketing and margins.

However, BT Alex Brown, the broker, expects to see pre-tax profits drop from £230 million to £190 million, with earnings also down by about 17 per cent at 12.4p.

Full-year profit forecasts are likely to be downgraded. On the positive side, brokers forecast some growth in like-for-like sales on the back of a triple points promotion launched in April.

There should be a modest increase in the payout from 4.4p to 4.5p.

BOC GROUP: It is hoped that tomorrow's final results will signal the end of a difficult period. So brokers pin their hopes on an upbeat statement on current trading.

The outlook for 1999 remains uncertain, but industrial gases should be capable of continued growth.

Pre-tax profits will show a downturn, following a trend

that has been apparent for much of the year. Brokers are forecasting a final outcome of between £375 million and £420 million, which compares with £445.2 million for 1997. Earnings per share will be down about 9 per cent at 54p.

The final quarter will have again been battered by currency factors, resulting in a higher than expected £12 million deficit. Despite the profits setback, the payout should grow from 29p to 31p.

BG: The gas supplier's third-quarter results, due on Wednesday, cover what is traditionally BG's quietest period. Brokers forecast a net loss of between £6 million and £10 million, against a loss of £16 million last time, after provisions totalling £53 million. Higher interest charges will cloud an increase in profitability at the trading level.

Overall profitability will be affected by the cut in prices, as directed by Ofgas, the industry regulator. Brokers say that weaker oil prices will continue to feed through, resulting in some weakness in BG's exploration and production business during the quarter.

STOREHOUSE: The problems of the Bhs and Mothercare retailer have been well documented, so interim numbers on Thursday should contain few surprises. Pre-tax profits are set to show a small downturn to between £35 million and £38 million. That compares with £38.5 million last time. Earnings should also decline from 6.3p to 5.9p.

The figures will reflect the deepening crisis for retailers because of the downturn in consumer spending, and will add to City fears of a disappointing Christmas. However, Storehouse will have ample opportunity to outline strategy for when the upturn eventually comes. The group has cut costs to the bone but must devise a way to boost sales.

Expect the payout to grow from 3.3p to 3.5p.

UNIGATE: Today's interim figures from the dairy and foods group are likely to be hit by the fall in pig prices, which should set back profits by about £4 million. Analysts are expecting first-half earnings to come in between £62 million and £67 million, compared with £66.4 million last year.

The pig meat problems affect Unigate's Malton Foods processing business. Analysts suspect that Malton has been slow to pass on the weakness in prices to pig farmers, but some believe there is scope for recovery in the second half of the year.

The St Ivel foods business is also thought to be facing a tougher market. Unigate will also face pressure to say what it will do with the £172 million of net cash it has kept after the collapse of its talks with Hillsdown Holdings, the foods to housebuilding group, in May this year. In August, Unigate denied that the talks had restarted.

The interim dividend is expected to grow from 7.5p to 8p.

BRITISH STEEL: Lingerings hopes that interim results today will show a pick-up in trading conditions are likely to be dashed. Pre-tax profits are set to plunge from £143 million to £100 million, with earnings per share down 1p, or 21 per cent, at 3.9p.

The recent decline in sterling will not be reflected in these figures. Instead, the story is expected to be one of falling demand combined with intense competition in Europe.

Sales will be down by about 4 per cent at £3.25 billion, with the problem compounded by lower prices and the recession in the Far East. Sales of stainless steel will be worst affected and brokers say Avesta Sheffield will probably turn in a loss. The emphasis now will be on cost-cutting that will result in job losses in return for first-half savings of £50 million.

The payout should be pegged at 3p.

HYDER: Interim results from the Welsh water and electricity distributor on Wednesday will be overshadowed by the recent price cut proposals for 2000-2005 from Ian Byatt, the industry regulator.

Brokers maintain that Hyder's water operation, Dwr

Cymru (Welsh Water), is potentially one of the worst-affected companies because of its existing heavy debt burden. The proposed cuts could lead to downgrades of future dividend growth forecasts. They fear that, with gearing of 260 per cent already, the company may need to ask shareholders to dig deeper for extra funds.

It is expected to report pre-tax profits of about £115 million (£105.4 million). The dividend is expected to be between 17.5p and 17.7p, against 16.2p.

UNITED UTILITIES: Half-year results on Friday will be overshadowed by pricing issues. Anglian Water, has already said that the regulator's proposed price cuts could endanger future dividend payments. Pre-tax profits should edge up to between £235 million and £245 million. United, which serves the North West of England, reported pre-tax profits of £233.6 million last year. It is expected to offer an interim dividend of 14.1p to 14.5p per share, up from 13.16p previously.

VODAFONE: Britain's biggest mobile phone operator is expected to weigh in with pre-tax profits of £400 million to £415 million when it unveils interim results tomorrow. That compares with £297 million for the corresponding period.

There are unlikely to be any surprises with the dividend. The group traditionally raises it 15 per cent, making 3.0p this time round. Headline pre-tax profits will be increased by a £45 million exceptional gain from the Globalstar disposal.

Results will reflect continued strong subscriber growth in both the domestic market and in overseas businesses, more of which should have made a profit for the first time.

Vodafone continues to account for about 30 per cent of all new subscribers in the UK. In the all-important pre-Christmas quarter, analysts are forecasting 1.5 million net new subscribers, which would give Vodafone net gains of 400,000.

MICHAEL CLARK

THIS is a meaty week for economy watchers both at home and abroad. In Britain, the focus will be on figures for retail prices and retail sales as debate rages about whether the Treasury and the Bank of England are too optimistic in forecasting that Britain will escape recession next year.

Retail prices, published tomorrow, are expected to show a fall in the headline rate of inflation to 3 per cent in October, from 3.2 per cent in September, according to a consensus of market forecasts compiled by Standard & Poor's MMS. Underlying inflation is expected to stay at 2.5 per cent.

Published on the same day is the October Public Sector Net Cash Requirement. This is expected to be a net repayment of £6.6 billion, compared with a requirement of £1.6 billion in September.

October retail sales figures, due on Wednesday, are predicted to decline by 0.1 per cent, having risen by 0.4 per cent in September. This would reduce year-on-year sales growth to 1.7 per cent, from 3.7 per cent, in September. On the same day, the min-

utes of the November Monetary Policy Committee meeting, at which rates were cut by 0.5 per cent, will be published.

October M4 broad money supply figures on Thursday are expected to show a further easing in the annual rate of growth to 8.6 per cent, from 9.1 per cent in September. The week ends with the first revision to third-quarter GDP, expected to revise down growth to 0.4 per cent, from 0.5 per cent in preliminary figures, and the annual growth rate to 2.4 per cent, from 2.5 per cent.

There is a great deal going on internationally. The key event will be tomorrow's meeting of the Federal Open Market Committee, as markets watch for the possibility of a further US rate cut.

Other highlights include the expected final details of Japan's economic package today, the possibility of more details of Russia's economic plans as the new German Chancellor and an International Monetary Fund delegation visit Moscow, and the latest OECD Economic Outlook tomorrow.

JANET BUSH

The Sunday Times: Buy Babcock International, Racal Electronics, Sibir Energy and Vickers; Sell City Technology Holdings and Celtic. **The Sunday Telegraph:** Buy TJ Hughes, Enterprise Inns and Dialog; Sell British Telecom, Heart of Midlothian, Royal & SunAlliance and FirstGroup. **The Express on Sunday:** Buy Marley, Marks & Spencer and Invesco Convertible Trust; Sell Coca-Cola Beverages; Hold Waddington and Eidos.

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.70	2.53
Austria Sch	20.81	19.15
Belgium Fr	61.24	58.28
Canada \$	2.822	2.524
Cyprus Cyp £	0.8768	0.8041
Denmark kr	11.30	10.41
Egypt	5.86	5.25
Finland Mk	8.11	8.36
France Fr	9.91	9.13
Germany Dr	2.879	2.737
Greece Dr	459	480
Hong Kong \$	13.70	12.50
India Ru	129	128
Indonesia	1,8238	1,1538
Ireland P	1,1858	1,0988
Israel S	7.52	6.86
Italy Lit	2961	2724
Japan Yen	216.85	201.12
Malta	0.6284	0.6225
Netherlands Gld	3.385	3.070
New Zealand \$	3.25	3.00
Norway Kr	13.08	12.14
Portugal Esc	301.04	279.01
S Africa R	10.20	9.24
Spain Pta	250.78	231.57
Sweden Kr	14.34	13.24
Switzerland Fr	2.468	2.250
Turkey Lira	50022	47288
USA \$	1.789	1.626

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading on Friday.

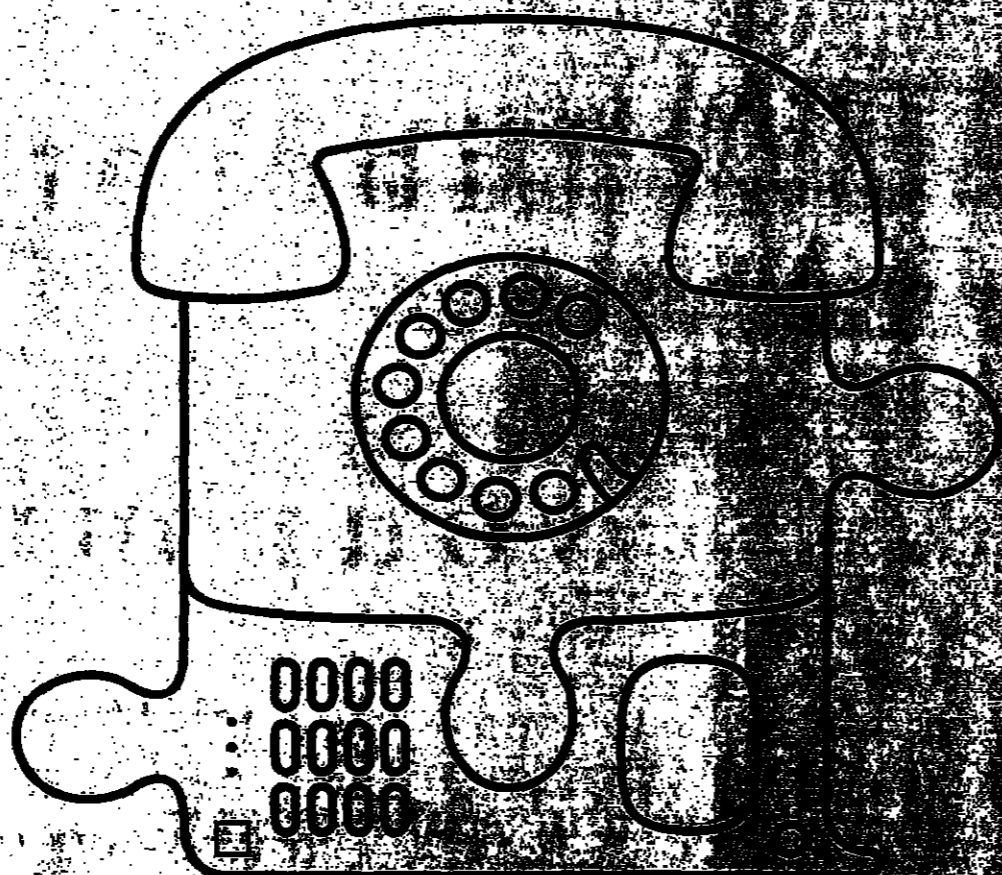
TODAY
Interims: Bertsford, British Steel, James Copper, Malscom, Pitar Property, Renold, 800 Group, Unigate, Workspace Group. Finals: Barlow, John Lusty, Sidlaw Group, Wandle Stores. Economic statistics: None scheduled.

TOMORROW
Interims: BTG, FirstGroup, Gell Thomson Environmental, Great Portland Estates, Halifax, Bar, HW Group, Merchant Retail Group, Meyer International, Northern Foods, Portsmouth & Sunderland Newspapers, Rebus Group, Superette, TGI, Vodafone Group, Vesper, Thornycroft. Finals: BOC Group, Carpath. Economic statistics: October retail price index, October public sector finances, Debt Management Office gilt auction details, OECD economic outlook.

WEDNESDAY
Interims: Aston Group, BG (q3), Cosalt, European Colour, FFG, Hyder, Land Securities, Lazard Select Investment, National Power, New Look Group, Portar Chadburn, Safeway, Flaxie Century Inns. Economic statistics: October retail sales, minutes of November BoE MPC meeting.

THURSDAY
Interims: Babcock International Group, Bradford Property, Cedar Group, Dainig Corp (q3), Glenmorangie, Larrbert Fenchurch, Merle Currie European, Scapa Group, Storehouse, Finlake, Tomkinsons. Economic statistics: October provisional M4, M4 lending, October final M0, BSA October building society lending data, BBA October bank lending data, October car production.

FRIDAY
Interims: Acatis & Hutcheon, Black Arrow Group, Fibernet, Raglan Properties, Osborne & Little, United Utilities, Vinditan, Flaxie. Economic statistics: Provisional q3 GDP.



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Equities
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RESULTS 48

Past problems catch up with Safeway

BUSINESS

FAR EAST 49

Roger Bootle on rates and the banks



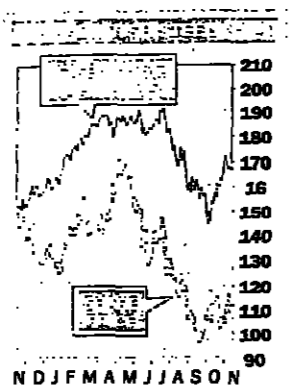
BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

MONDAY NOVEMBER 16 1998

Blair defends handling of the economy

By Adam Jones and Carl Mortished

TONY BLAIR will tonight launch a robust defence of the Government's handling of the economy...



The company recently contributed to the job attrition in the North East with the closure of the Darlington & Simpsons Rolling Mills...

The Prime Minister is set to abandon tradition by putting the economy at the centre of his Guildhall speech...

being negotiated is likely to result in the loss of 2,500 jobs, with an announcement due later this week.

However, public confidence in the economy is likely to suffer another blow today when British Steel announces a sharp fall in profits...

Rover's parent, BMW of Germany, is demanding an overhaul of the way Rover's 39,000 staff work...

BMW wants Rover workers to adopt a system used at its German factories where short hours are worked during lean periods...



John Kitching, Carpetright's managing director, left, with Lord Harris. Carpetright is to regain control of Carpetland

By Sarah Cunningham Retail Correspondent

Lord Harris to pay £14m for Carpetland

LORD HARRIS of Peckham, the chairman of Carpetright, is set to take back control of Carpetland ten years after selling it as part of his former Harris Queensway group.

He will pay £14 million for the business to Allied Carpets, the struggling carpets retailer, which should help Allied to remain an independent company.

from Luke Johnson, the entrepreneur, and one from Alchemy Partners.

Allied hopes that the disposal of Carpetland, the worst-performing part of the group, will mean that institutional shareholders will allow the existing management, led by Ray Nethercott, chief executive...

name to Allied Carpets in 1993 when it bought the Allied Maples group from Asda.

Both Allied and Carpetright have seen their shares fall sharply in value in recent months as sales have suffered in the consumer downturn.

Richard Hyman, of Verdict Research, said: "This is a brave move by Carpetright. The short-term outlook is very depressed for carpet retailers, so they are looking to the long term with this deal."

Shares in Allied Carpets closed at 52p on Friday, having traded at 206p a year ago before enjoying a modest recovery amid speculation of a deal involving Lord Harris.

Shares in Carpetright peaked at 624 1/2p last year, but ended last week at just 184p.

Tomkins may go into new field

TOMKINS, the conglomerate, is to tell the City this week that it may add a fourth leg to its three main businesses...

Greg Hutchings, chairman, is to make presentations to analysts and institutions in London tomorrow and in New York on Thursday.

Mr Hutchings will also say that Tomkins still intends to sell its professional, garden and leisure side...

Corporate Profile, page 47

ScottishPower aim

ScottishPower, the electricity, water, gas and telecoms supplier, is trying again to win control of a US utility. It is thought to be in talks with PacificCorp, which was outbid for control of Britain's Energy Group by Texas Utilities.

PacificCorp is valued at £4 billion, and ScottishPower at £8 billion. ScottishPower had unsuccessful merger talks with Florida Progress and Cinergy, of Ohio.

US tobacco deal

US tobacco groups would pay \$206 billion (£124 billion) to end state claims over costs of treating sick smokers under a deal to be announced today.

It salvages parts of a tobacco agreement that perished in Congress and limits marketing of tobacco products. It has been agreed with Philip Morris, RJ Reynolds, BAT's Brown & Williamson, and Lorillard.

New firm's Isa

Standard Life Investments, the asset management company launched today by the mutual insurer, is to offer the first Catmarked individual savings account (Isa) investing in stocks and shares.

GAD to relax solvency rules

By Marianne Curphey, Insurance Correspondent

THE Government is preparing to relax the solvency rules for insurance companies to prevent many of them collapsing should the FTSE 100 plunge below 4,500.

The Government Actuary's Department (GAD) will write to chief executives this week to reassure them that if the market falls from its current level of 5,463 by 18 per cent or more, their companies will not automatically become insolvent.

sharp falls in equity markets could trigger a wave of consolidation. Weaker life companies, particularly the mutuals, could be forced into the arms of financially stronger partners if their solvency margins were eroded, they said.

The GAD believes that the further the FTSE 100 falls, the more likely it is to rebound and therefore the lighter the solvency margins should be under the new rules.

Small life companies and mutuals have had to cope with the double burden of falling share prices and low yields on government bonds.

Mike Wadsworth, of Watson Wyatt, the actuary, said: "Although the amended margins now look less likely to apply than they would have done a month ago, markets are still volatile. For the insurance companies, the end of the year is a long way off."

Hoechst heads for £26bn Rhône-Poulenc merger

By Martin Barrow

HOECHST and Rhône-Poulenc, two of Europe's biggest pharmaceutical groups, are poised to merge, creating a £26 billion giant.

The two companies are said to be close to agreement with an announcement possible tomorrow, when Germany's

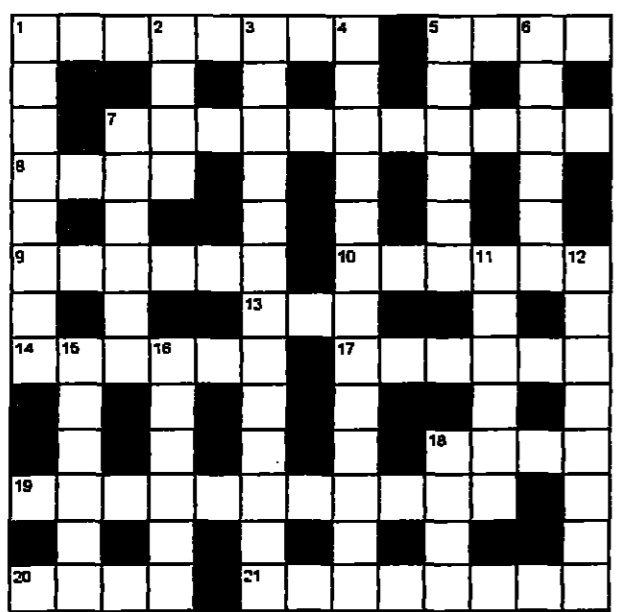
Hoechst is due to announce financial results.

Shares in Hoechst and in France's Rhône-Poulenc have surged in recent weeks amid speculation that a merger was imminent. Consolidation in the chemicals and pharmaceuticals industry is gathering pace, with the Swiss companies Ciba and Clariant agreeing to join forces earlier this month.

Lazard Frères, adviser to Hoechst, and Rothschild, for Rhône-Poulenc, have been in negotiations for several weeks and are confident that a deal can be done.

However, some analysts fear that the contrasting cultures of the two companies could become a barrier.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1564

- ACROSS: 1 Encroach (5), 5 Safety device: melt together (4), 7 Smelling salts (3,8), 8 Mercy, sympathy (4), 9 Move in from margin: place order (6), 10 Mafia conspiracy of silence (6), 13 Small hotel (3), 14 City of ancient Greece, Egypt (6), 17 Mass departure (6), 18 Narrow opening: gashed (4), 19 Brazen performance (4,2,5), 20 A bird: it flies straight (4), 21 Speak condescendingly: help pilot's descent (4,4)

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M&S vows to fight news cuttings writ

By Sarah Cunningham

MARKS & SPENCER, ill-acquainted to the relentless criticism that it has attracted in newspapers over its damaging boardroom battles, is embroiled in a legal dispute with the Newspaper Licensing Agency (NLA).

The agency, set up by the national press, is seeking to enforce a demand that M&S pay a licence fee to cover copyright on articles that it photocopies and circulates internally.

The NLA last week served a writ on Marks & Spencer. The case is due in court next month. A spokeswoman for Marks & Spencer said: "We have always challenged their [the NLA's] right to issue licences and charge a fee when we only circulate these cuttings to senior management. We have never paid it." The company plans a vigorous defence of its position.

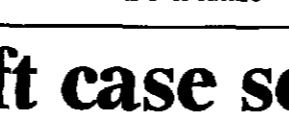
Anthony Rentoul, chief executive of the NLA, said: "Marks & Spencer declined to apply for a licence and we therefore felt obliged to start proceedings."

Over the past fortnight, the cuttings file on M&S has been particularly weighty as an attempt to unseat Sir Richard Greenbury as chairman became public.

Keith Oates, deputy chairman, last week reportedly put himself forward as a possible non-executive chairman in partnership with Peter Salisbury, currently one of the group's managing directors, as chief executive. Sir Richard cut short a trip to India last week to quell the rebellion.

M&S yesterday declined to comment on reports that Mr Oates will be forced to quit, but big shareholders believe that he will be unable to remain in the company.

Weekend reports that Allan Leighton, chief executive of Asda, has been approached to join M&S were dismissed by an Asda spokeswoman, who said that he had received no overtures, formal or informal.



Oates: doubts over future

Microsoft case sends out corporate e-mail alarm

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

MICROSOFT's anti-trust trial has affected US corporate culture even before most of the witnesses have been heard.

Executives are ordering staff to destroy any incriminating e-mails after they witnessed the devastating effect of Microsoft mail in the hands of the Justice Department.

Data management and e-mail retention policies are being redrawn to avoid creating hostages to fortune. Internal messages exchanged between

Microsoft employees are the star witnesses in the trial. Amazon.com, the online bookseller, has become the latest company to respond to the potential threat from cyberspace. A memo to employees said: "There are some communications that should not be expressed in written form."

As the biggest online bookseller, Amazon.com executives may fear that the Justice Department could take an interest in its market domin-

ance. Like Microsoft, its informal corporate culture is heavily dependent on electronic communications.

The Polk Company, a consultancy, is reviewing its data system after discovering that employees had each stored up to 10,000 e-mails.

David Zaccagnini, a Polk vice-president, said: "What the trial has done is to say that if people are using this as an electronic filing system, it could be a dangerous medium."

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